THURSDAY
June 25, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
20 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Vol. 57 • No. 150

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

To subscribe, give a missed call at 9828331787 or scan QR code

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

HEAVY DAMAGE

Rain triggers floods in Arunachal Pradesh

NEWS » PAGE 16

TRAVEL PURPOSE

Passport not a citizenship document: MEA official

NEWS » PAGE 14

NUCLEAR PROGRAMME

Inspections in Iran soon, says IAEA chief

WORLD » PAGE 18

DATA POINT

Rising women entrepreneurs in Afghanistan

Inaccessible workplaces force women to innovate

OPINION » PAGE 13

CRUCIAL CONTEST

Stuttering India faces the Bangladesh test

SPORT » PAGE 19

NEARBY

Jitendra Singh pitches for BRICS Space Economy

BENGALURU
Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh has pitched for BRICS Space Economy. He called for collective action among BRICS member-nations to unlock new opportunities in innovation, investment and entrepreneurship. » PAGE 10

Triple murder case: Daughter arrested

BENGALURU
The K.R. Puram police have arrested 24-year-old Shwetha, accused of murdering her parents and younger sister after they allegedly opposed to her live-in relationship with her boyfriend. » PAGE 9

Warehouse collapse kills five workers in Kolkata

At least 18 people feared trapped under the debris after the under-construction building came crashing down; Army joins rescue efforts, Bengal CM orders audit of construction sites under KMC

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Five workers were killed and several injured as an under-construction warehouse in the Taratala area of Kolkata collapsed on Wednesday.

At least 18 workers are feared to be trapped under the collapsed structure. The accident occurred shortly after noon when the multi-storey warehouse being constructed by a private operator on 6,689 square metres of land leased out by the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Authority (SMPA) came crashing down.

According to those present at the site, 50 to 60 people were at work when the accident took place. Local people said they heard several workers buried under the debris crying out for help.

Crushing fall: Rescue personnel at work near the collapsed building at Taratala in Kolkata on Wednesday. PTI

Attempts were made to drill a hole through the debris and reach out to the trapped workers, and oxygen and food were made available.

The Indian Army joined the rescue operation, mobilising four columns from the Eastern Command.

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, who visited the accident site with his Cabinet colleagues, said that rescue personnel had established contact with those trapped under the debris.

He said five agencies, including the Indian Army and National Disaster Response Force, were pressed into action and added that the rescue would continue till the night. "All the agencies are working together," he said.

Late in the evening, the Kolkata Police detained three people for interrogation.

Mr. Adhikari said that the lessee of the land from the SMPA, Sambhunath Behera, had submitted a building plan in January which was found faulty by Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) engineers after an initial assessment. The Chief Minister directed suspension of all under-construction activities in the KMC area till an audit is conducted by July 31.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14
ANXIOUS SEARCH
» PAGE 14

'Progress' made in U.S. trade deals: govt.

A delegation led by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal meets USTR Jamieson Greer and his team in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer ended his two-day visit to New Delhi after holding multiple meetings with Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, during which they reviewed the core elements of the interim trade agreement as well as the broader Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), the Union Commerce Ministry said on Wednesday.

Mr. Greer and Mr. Goyal conducted a "comprehensive review" of the core BTA elements, including enhanced market access, digital trade, supply chain resilience, reduction of non-tariff barriers, and expanded cooperation in strategic sectors.

While both sides "noted substantial progress" made by the negotiating teams in recent months on the deals, a statement by the Ministry fell short of mentioning any deadlines for either agreement.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14
GOYAL TO VISIT U.K.
» PAGE 17

Some online services to be hit for a day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

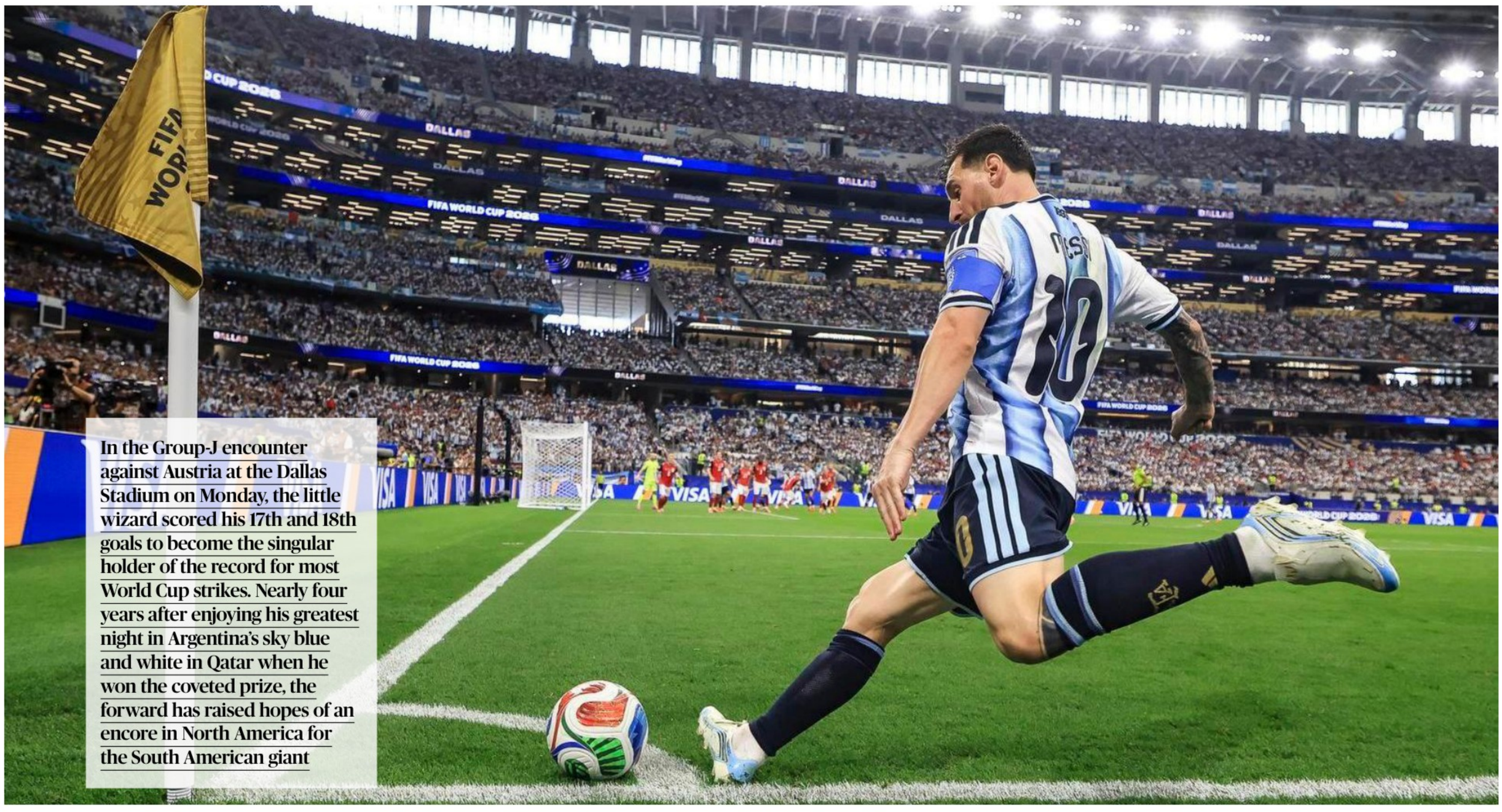
Starting 9 p.m. on Thursday, some online services of the Karnataka government are likely to be disrupted till 9 p.m. on Friday to facilitated upgrade of the State Data Centre that hosts many government sites.

Among the services likely to affected are Aadhaar appointment, Bhoomi, Mojini, Mobile One, BangaloreOne, KarnatakaOne, challaning of traffic violations by Bangalore Traffic police, Sakala, e-Janaspandana, RTO services and Kaveri, among many others.

Information Technology and Biotechnology Minister Priyank Kharge said the government is taking up important technical maintenance, infrastructure upgradation and security upgrades.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 10

Argentina's Messi-ah keeps the fire burning



GETTY IMAGES & AFP

In the Group-J encounter against Austria at the Dallas Stadium on Monday, the little wizard scored his 17th and 18th goals to become the singular holder of the record for most World Cup strikes. Nearly four years after enjoying his greatest night in Argentina's sky blue and white in Qatar when he won the coveted prize, the forward has raised hopes of an encore in North America for the South American giant

Vivek Krishnan

It is the fifth minute of stoppage time. There is a 1-0 lead to protect. There is qualification for the knockout stages of the FIFA World Cup to seal.

With barely a minute left for the final whistle, the practical thing for mere mortals to do would be to take the ball to a distant corner and waste as much of the remaining time as possible.

But when has Lionel Messi, long immortalised in Argentina's iconic sky blue and white, ever been constrained by the parameters applicable to the rest of the universe? Never, not even at 38 years old, is the answer.

He hares down the right flank with the bounding enthusiasm of a restless teenager, looks up and finds Julian Alvarez sprinting down the middle with an inch-perfect pass.

Alvarez, 13 years younger, takes a couple of touches before shooting straight at goalkeeper Alexander Schlager. By this stage, Messi has positioned himself unmarked in the 18-yard box. He attracts the ball again, and navigates his way around the goalkeeper and another Austrian player before taking aim at goal. The shot is blocked, but he hammers the rebound past a row of bodies and into the back of the net.

In these few frames, the drive and desire of the irrepressible genius from Rosario are perfectly encapsulated. Of course, Messi, who turned 39 on Wednesday, was born to do things with a football that few can envision, let alone execute. But more compellingly, the little wizard, having won the World Cup in Qatar four years ago and conquered everything there is to conquer in the beautiful game, retains the fire within him to light up the global stage at this phase of his extraordinary career.

Perhaps, we shouldn't be surprised. For, the determination to not let standards drop is a timeless trait that binds otherworldly champions across the sporting landscape – Novak Djokovic, who also turned 39 last month, is another contemporary example from the world of tennis. Xavi drew a parallel with basketball icon Michael Jordan in his column for The Athletic, for there is no footballing equivalent to his former Barcelona teammate in his view.

Another record

Messi's aforementioned goal in a Group-J encounter against Austria at the Dallas Stadium in Arlington was his second of Monday afternoon in a 2-0 win. It was also his 18th strike across six World Cups. The 17th, which came earlier in the day in the air-conditioned venue, steered him clear of Mirosav Klose as the singular owner of the record for most goals in the history of the quadrennial show-piece. He could have eclipsed the former Germany striker even earlier in the game if not for sending his penalty wide in the ninth minute, strangely his third miss from the spot in three consecutive World Cups. It is reassuring to know that he can err too.

Otherwise, his tally of World Cup goals is another stratospheric feat in Messi's long list of individual and collective accolades. During this very tournament, he has become only the third player, after Frenchman Just Fontaine and Brazilian Jairzinho way back, to score in six consecutive World Cup matches – the last time he failed to score was in Argentina's final group-stage match of the euphoric 2022 campaign against Poland. With his hat-trick against Algeria last week, he also became Argentina's youngest and oldest scorer in the tournament, a glowing stamp of his longevity.

The game against the Algerians, notably, marked 20 years to the day that he had come off the bench against Serbia and Montenegro for his World Cup debut and scored in the German city of Gelsenkirchen. His was the final goal in a 6-0 win, the only time ever that he has played supporting cast in the marquee event.

Heartbeat

That he is the main man for the Albiceleste – he has scored all five of his team's goals at this tournament so far – even two decades later appears to blur the lines between fact and fiction. Never mind the welcome U-turn after announcing his international retirement in 2016, it is nearly four years since his greatest night in an Argentine shirt in Qatar. And still here he is, raising hopes of an encore in North America as the heartbeat of the three-time champion. "When Leo gets activated, everyone gets activated," Argentina's head coach Lionel Scaloni told the media after the victory over Austria.

Messi's record-breaking opening goal on Monday was a fitting example of how the rest of the Argentine players are geared towards facilitating the legend in their midst. Among Messi's teammates are Enzo Fernandez and Alexis Mac Allister, mainstays in the midfield for elite Premier League clubs. Lautaro Martinez, Inter Milan skipper, finished on top of the goal-scoring charts in the 2025-26 Serie A season. Atletico Madrid's Alvarez, used as a substitute by Scaloni so far, is keenly sought by Real Madrid. Rodrigo De Paul served Atletico with distinction before joining up with Messi at Inter Miami in Major League Soccer (MLS). Yet, if all of them want to intuitively look for one man as often as possible on the pitch, it is telling of Messi's unabated greatness.

They did exactly that in the 38th minute. Messi, with his back towards the Austrian goal, started the move by finding Thiago Almada in the middle of the park. The 25-year-old Atletico Madrid winger charged with the ball towards the edge of the 18-yard box, and then fed it out wide to Facundo Medina on the left. The left-back could have offered a cross past the last line of defence for Lautaro to latch onto, but instead passed the ball back in the direction that it came from. In anticipation of the great man running in behind him, Almada let the ball go between his legs, aptly for Messi to pass the ball past Schlager's outstretched right arm and pump his right fist in celebration.

In a career as long as his, Messi has scored every category of goal imaginable. There have been unstoppable long-range thunderbolts and free-kicks, mesmerising solo runs, delectable chips and quintessential fox-in-the-box finishes. But if there is a type of goal that is synonymous with him, it has to be his unfailing propensity to pick his spot in the corner, open up his body and caress the ball into the net with his majestic left foot from the edge of the box.

Complementing his sublime skill and avid affection for the game is a razor-sharp brain too. It lends to his innate understanding of where he needs to be at any given juncture. He can no longer press the opposition with the intensity that a younger version of himself could, nor make gut-busting runs beyond the defence in the hope that a teammate finds him. Against Austria, as he often did in the previous World Cup, he covered a distance of nearly five kilometres merely by walking. It appears antithetical to the very essence of the sport, but it is simply his way of conserving energy in his twilight for the key moments that require him to inject his magic.

For Messi to be in the necessary physical shape for the rigours of a World Cup, the move to the MLS in 2023 has also helped. Even though the profile of the American league has grown in recent years, there isn't as much strain on Messi's wearing body from playing for Inter Miami as there would have been if he was still plying his trade in Europe. Without needing to operate at full throttle all the time, he has still become the fastest to 50 goals in MLS history.

Looking ahead, will Messi's goal-scoring record in the World Cup be breached? Possibly in this very tournament, given that France's talisman Kylian Mbappe, 27, is just two behind the Argentine.But to help understand Messi's legacy, the climax of Argentina's duel against Austria was instructive as well as poignant. As the television cameras panned to an old lady in the audience, she held up a banner that read, '100-year-old Messi fan'.

Beyond all the goals and trophies won, Messi spreads unadulterated joy to millions around the world like her. There can be no greater endorsement of his legacy.

THE GIST

- Messi's record-breaking opening goal on Monday was a fitting example of how the rest of the Argentine players are geared towards facilitating the legend in their midst
- Complementing his sublime skill and avid affection for the game is a razor-sharp brain too. It lends to his innate understanding of where he needs to be at any given juncture
- For Messi to be in the necessary physical shape for the rigours of a World Cup, the move to the MLS in 2023 has also helped. Without needing to operate at full throttle all the time, he has still become the fastest to 50 goals in MLS history

320-foot-wide Major Arterial Road set to open this month

The road runs parallel to NICE Road, passes through Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout and spans 10.76 km

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The main carriageway of Bengaluru's Major Arterial Road (MAR), the city's widest road with a width of 320 feet, is set to be inaugurated by the end of June. The MAR runs parallel to NICE Road, passes through Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL) and spans 10.76 km.

Earlier, *The Hindu* reported the possibility of bottlenecks at the ends of the road. Now, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) have planned to install traffic signals at both ends to address the issue, after considering diverting traffic through the interior roads of NPKL. However, this will be a temporary measure as the BDA is planning an underpass and cloverleaf for smooth movement.

According to sources, although some vehicles can be diverted through other roads, the volume of traffic at the connecting junctions is still expected to be high, making the installation of signals inevitable.

"The actual volume of vehicles can only be assessed once the stretch becomes fully operational and more people start using it. However, preliminary projections suggest the need for traffic signals," a traffic official said.

According to the official, the primary reason for bottlenecks is that a 300-foot-wide road at either end converges into roads that are at least four times narrower.

Moreover, the MAR connects Mysuru Road with Magadi Road. Magadi Road already experiences heavy traffic, particularly during weekends, and BTP officials say congestion at the MAR convergence point on Magadi Road is inevitable.

On the other hand, the MAR will not directly connect to the Bengaluru-Mysuru Access Controlled Highway. While the MAR ends near Challaghatta Metro Station, the highway begins a few kilometres earlier. As a result, commuters from the northwestern parts of the city who wish to access the highway will have to travel a few extra kilometres.

"When the road was planned, provisions could have been made for more connecting roads within NPKL, creating links to different points so that commuters would have multiple route options. Now, the BDA is exploring whether interior roads can be connected to different ends," a source said.

According to BDA sources, the road was planned as far back as 2017, and the extent of the current issues and shortcomings could not have been foreseen at the time.

Despite the design flaws, the MAR provides a significant connectivity link between Mysuru Road (National Highway) and Magadi Road (State Highway). The 10.76-km stretch will also form part of the 54-km Peripheral Ring Road-1 (PRR), which will connect Hosur Road and Tumakuru Road via Bannerghatta Road, Hosur Road, and Magadi Road.

According to officials, the Major Arterial Road could witness bottlenecks because a 300-foot-wide road at either end converges into roads that are at least four times narrower. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Road rundown

- **Length:** 10.76 km
- **Main carriageway:** Six lanes (three on each side)
- **Service road:** Four lanes (two on each side)
- **Additional features:** Dedicated cycling tracks, walkways, and boulevards
- **Connectivity:** Runs parallel to NICE Road, links Mysore Road and Magadi Road

BDA clarifies viral MAR collapse video

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A purported video that went viral on social media showed a portion of the MAR caving in following heavy rainfall on Saturday. The BDA identified the issue and rectified it within two days. The BJP also took to social media to criticise the Congress government over the allegedly shoddy work. Reacting to the issue, P. Manivannan, Commissioner of BDA, told *The Hindu* that in the run-up to the inauguration, certain social media handles and sections of the media have circulated videos showing damaged portions of a service road, claiming that the MAR itself has collapsed before inauguration. "This creates the false impression that the road being inaugurated is structurally defective. This is factually incorrect," he said.

Another BDA source said that the stretch due for inauguration is the main carriageway, and the service roads won't be inaugurated as works are yet to be completed on those stretches.

The sinkhole shown in the video is in the service lane, the official said.

Safe footpath campaign to be rolled out from July 1

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The five corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will launch a citywide 'Safe Footpath Campaign' from July 1 to clear encroachments and improve pedestrian infrastructure across the city, Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has said. The government has also allocated ₹70 crore for the repair and improvement of nearly 2,000 km of footpaths within GBA limits.

The Minister announced the initiative on Wednesday after reviewing footpath encroachment removal and repair works. The move follows a recent Supreme Court judgment that declared the freedom to walk on demarcated and well-maintained footpaths a fundamental right.

Mr. Gowda said that shop owners encroaching on footpaths have been given time until July 1 to voluntarily remove goods, signboards, and other materials placed on footpaths. After the deadline, civic authorities will begin removing encroachments and impose heavy penalties on violators. He stressed that footpaths are public assets and that commercial activities must remain within private premises without obstructing pedestrian movement.

Shop encroachments must be removed while parking on footpaths will be strictly prohibited, and vehicles found violating the rule will be towed away

"Bengaluru has a road network of nearly 13,000 km, of which about 2,000 km of arterial and sub-arterial roads have been identified as priority corridors for the campaign. The objective is to remove all obstacles that hinder safe and smooth movement of pedestrians," Mr. Gowda said, adding that the State government is committed to ensuring safe and accessible pedestrian infrastructure.

Further, the Minister highlighted that nearly 1,000 people lose their lives in road accidents in the city every year, with pedestrians accounting for around 30% of the fatalities. He said safer footpaths could significantly reduce such deaths.

In addition to removing the shop encroachments, parking on footpaths will be strictly prohibited, and vehicles found violating the rule will be towed away. Officials have also been instructed to identify abandoned vehicles parked on roadsides.

Notice stickers will be affixed from July 1, and vehicles not removed within seven days will be towed and auctioned from July 10, according to the GBA. Officials have also been directed to undertake scientific pothole repairs, improve major junctions and traffic signals, and prevent parking within 75 metres of signalised intersections to ease traffic flow.

Officials have been directed to undertake scientific pothole repairs, improve major junctions and traffic signals, and prevent parking within 75 metres of signalised intersections. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Work for PRR expected to begin as soon as formalities gather pace

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Soon after the Letter of Acceptance was issued to Bengaluru-based Shankaranarayana Constructions (SNC) for the first package of the long-pending Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC), earlier known as the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR), L.K. Atheeq, BBC chairman, directed officials to expedite land acquisition compensation payments and complete the pending administrative formalities to enable the start of the construction work.

Following a review meeting with officials from the land acquisition and engineering sections of BBC, as well as representatives of the project contractor on Wednesday, Mr. Atheeq instructed all Special Land Acquisition Officers to speed up compensation payments to landowners who have already consented to hand over possession of their land.

"The contractor has submitted the bank guarantee required as performance security, hence the engineering section has been directed to sign the agreement and issue the work order within the next two days, paving the way for the formal commencement of the project," he said.

Moreover, the final notification has been issued for the acquisition of land required for the integration of the project with the NICE corridor at Madavara village. Officials have been instructed to complete the award process and begin disbursing compensation, the official said.

The engineering section will seek permissions from the National Highways Authority, the Public Works Department, and the Railways for the construction of Road Over Bridges at locations where the alignment intersects their infrastructure. The contractor, SNC, has been asked to follow up on these clearances along with BCC officials, Mr. Atheeq said.

"The preparatory work has largely been completed, and construction is expected to begin shortly on land parcels that are free from encumbrances and are already available with the authorities," he said.

Part of the Jarakabande forest land is expected to be used for the PRR project. FILE PHOTO

Residents of Indiranagar urge B-SMILE to reconsider proposed elevated corridor

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

I Change Indiranagar (ICIN), a federation of Residents Welfare Associations (RWAs) in Indiranagar, has urged B-SMILE to reconsider the proposed elevated corridor passing through 80 Feet Road, Chinmaya Mission Hospital (CMH) Road and 100 Feet Road in Indiranagar, raising six major concerns over the project's planning, data collection and financial viability.

The letter comes days after ICIN conducted a citizen-led tree-counting exercise along the proposed elevated corridor alignment.

In a representation submitted to B-SMILE, supported by more than 900 signatures, the group questioned the project's inclusion in the city's mobility planning framework. They claimed that the proposed corridor does not figure in the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) 2020.

The group also argued that the project's problem statement is inadequately defined. While the proposed alignment passes through 18 junctions between Old Madras Road and Silk Board, the Detailed Project Report (DPR) relies largely on traffic data collected from a single location near Domlur.

Further, the letter states that the DPR does not comply with Indian Roads Congress guidelines for planning grade separators and elevated structures, alleging that several mandatory traffic studies were not conducted.

The residents also noted that the DPR doesn't assess the impact on local traffic and pedestrians, particularly around the busy CMH Road and commercial stretches of Indiranagar.

The group said the projected travel-time savings and financial returns lack adequate supporting evidence.

They also claimed that the DPR underestimates environmental impacts, noting that a citizen-led tree census identified over 780 trees along the proposed corridor, significantly higher than official estimates.

The residents have sought a review of the project and called for alternative solutions, including grade-level improvements.

Four held for chain snatching

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Malleshwaram police have arrested three persons allegedly involved in a gold chain-snatching case and have recovered stolen property worth around ₹2.5 lakh.

The arrested accused have been identified as Varun, 26, of Vijayanagar, Chandrakant Raj, 23, of Nandini Layout and Suhas, 24.

In another incident, the Yeshwanthpur police arrested a 24-year-old man involved in robbery and theft cases and recovered valuables worth approximately ₹2.2 lakh. The accused has been identified as Amar.

'Apply for permanent power connection by July 6'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) has urged consumers to apply for permanent power supply by July 6, 2026, for residential buildings that have been granted a one-time exemption from obtaining an Occupancy Certificate (OC). The exemption applies to buildings with a ground floor plus three floors or stilt parking plus four floors, constructed on sites measuring up to 2,400 sq. ft. (with an allowable deviation of up to 20%) within Bescom's jurisdiction. It is applicable only to buildings completed on or before May 31. The appeal follows the State government's decision on Monday to grant a one-time relaxation permitting permanent electricity connections to residential buildings constructed without an OC on plots of up to 2,400 sq. ft. (with a 20% variation). Applicants have been asked to submit their applications within 15 days.

Applicants can visit their nearest Bescom subdivision office or visit the website to avail the benefit. Offices will remain open on public holidays.

For pending applications for permanent power connections, Bescom has asked building owners to provide the application number and date and a geo-tagged photograph of the building with the owner standing in front of it. The details must be submitted to the Bescom officer concerned to avail of a permanent connection.

invest BIHAR
BIADA
WHY BIHAR?
Bihar is India's Next Industrial Growth Engine
From the land of Legacy to the land of limitless opportunities - Bihar is ready
UPCOMING MSME TECHNOLOGY CENTRE, GAYA JI
Built-up Area: Approximately 16,800 square metres.
Capacity:- 7,000 trainees per year
Output Expected
1. Technological Upgradation
2. Production Assistance
3. Generation of an industry-ready, technically strong workforce with hands-on shop-floor experience in specialized fields
4. Assisting micro and small enterprises to elevate their production quality to meet national and global supply chain benchmarks
ROBUST INFRASTRUCTURE FOR INDUSTRIAL GROWTH
32 lakh sq. ft. ready plug & play sheds
14,600+ acres of new industrial land
95 industrial areas
Industrial facilities with 24×7 power, water, roads & security
Competitive lease rentals starting as low as ₹4/sq ft
EASE OF DOING BUSINESS – REDEFINED
Single Window Clearance System
Deemed Clearance in 30 Days
Approvals like CTE/CTO within 12 days
Digital processes, investor facilitation & dedicated nodal support
simplified labour policies & compliance systems
ATTRACTIVE POLICIES & INCENTIVES
Bihar Industrial Investment Promotion Package 2025
Bihar Land Allotment & Management Policy 2026
Bihar Semiconductor Policy 2026
Bihar GCC Policy 2026
BIADA Amnesty Policy, 2025
Bihar RE Policy 2025
Biofuel Production Promotion policy 2025
Export Promotion Policy 2024
Bihar Logistics Policy 2024
IT policy 2024
Startup Policy 2022
Textile & Leather Policy 2022
COST ADVANTAGE + HIGH RETURNS
Lower cost of land, labour & operations
High growth domestic market access
Strategic location connecting North, East & Northeast India
STRATEGIC PROJECTS DRIVING GROWTH
Bihar Integrated Manufacturing City Gaya Limited (BIMCGL)
Mega Food Park, Muzaffarpur
Mega Leather, Footwear & Accesories Park, Mahwal, Muzaffarpur
SEZs at Buxar & Bettiah
Fintech City, PatnaMulti Modal Logistics Park (MMLP), Patna
Other upcoming thematic sectoral parks
POWERING INDUSTRY 24×7
24×7 reliable power supply with dedicated industrial feeders
Rapid adoption of smart metering & energy infrastructure
UNMATCHED CONNECTIVITY & LOGISTICS ADVANTAGE
Airports are operational in Patna, Gaya, Purnea and Darbhanga
Airports are under construction in Supaul, West Champaran, Saharsa, Muzaffarpur, Gopalganj, and East Champaran
Emerging as a multi-modal logistics hub with ICD Bihta & MMLP, Patna
ABUNDANT WATER RESOURCES
Industrial-grade water availability across key clusters
Inland waterways boosting sustainable logistics
STARTUP BIHAR 'AT A GLANCE'
Seed Fund 10 LAKHS
Acceleration Fund Upto 3 LAKHS
Post Seed Fund 15 LAKHS
IPR Fund Support Upto 5 LAKHS
Matching fund Supporting Upto 50 LAKHS
1701 Bihar Registered Startups
1800 345 6214
https://state.bihar.gov.in/industries
#BiharHaiTaiyar

CLASSIFIEDS MART
TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
Bengaluru: 98455 29981 ■ 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ■ 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ■ 2335700

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, REENA Choudhary w/o Pramod Sencha.N. Address- #33 Parihar Niketan, Ward no 126, PF Layout, Subbana Garden, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040, hereby declare that my correct name is Reena Choudhary and not Choudhary Renu Dhanaram and my date of birth is 25-06-1999 and not 22-04-1998 vide Affidavit dated 24 of June 2026 Notary K.Ramegowda, Bangalore City, Reg No. 12359

I, VIRENDER Singh S/o Om Pal Singh Residing at 2500, near Hospital, Dhani Chang, Chang (5), PO: Chang, Dist: Bhiwani, Haryana 127027 here by declare that my minor sons name Sahil and Sahil Singh Parmar both name belongs to him only. Hence forth he shall be known and called as Sahil Singh Parmar for all legal purposes, Vide Affidavit dated 23-3-2026 sworn before Notary Siva Kumar, Bengaluru

I, MUSHTAQUA Ahmed, S/o Mohammed Abdul Khader, r/at No.144, A Block, 11th Cross, Nagawara main Road, Rashad Nagar, Bengaluru 560045 have changed my name as Khader Mushtaq Ahmed vide affidavit dtd 26.05.2026 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bluru.

I, MOHAMED Fairoz Ibrahim, S/o Mohammed Ibrahim, r/at No.30/3, 1st Main Road, Valmiki Nagar, Mysore Road, Bengaluru 560026 have changed my name as Mohammed Fairoz vide affidavit dtd 23.06.2026 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bluru.

Kingmakers: meet the insects that make India's favourite mangoes

A study has found that allowing wild insects to access flowers dramatically increased mango yield by 350%, highlighting the importance of wild insects for mango pollination; yet, native bees that transfer pollen around orchards are under threat from the insecticides that protect the crop from pests

Kavitha Kannan

Fruit test: Visitors at a stall during a three-day mango and jackfruit fest organised by Shivamogga HOPCOMS in Karnataka in the first week of June. Attaching a monetary value to the crops could nudge policy towards actively protecting pollinators, through changes at the farm and landscape levels. S.K. DINESH

More than a thousand varieties of mangoes exist in India, the popular ones being Banganapalli, Dassheri, Alphonso, Badaami, Imaam Pasandh, and Malgoa. There is even a "Lalbagh" variety in Bengaluru. Many of us associate the fruit with a summer childhood memory, of eating it with our bare hands, the mango juice dripping on our clothes.

More recently, the fruit has become popular on social media platforms, where users explain hundreds of ways to cook and eat it. This year, the fruit's popularity reached a new height: the red carpet at the Met Gala in New York. Mangoes and Indian summers go hand-in-hand, yet do you know how this fruit comes to be?

In other words, the mango tree gives out flowers... and then what happens?

Making a mango

Between December and March every year, mango trees across the country bloom and issue a sweet yet slightly fermented odour. Look closer at a mango tree in this time and you will find a branch with several bouquets of small, cream-coloured flowers. Each branch, which botanists call a panicle, contains a few hundred to up to 10,000 individual flowers. And a single mango tree can carry up to some 3,000 panicles, depending on its size and branching.

Each one of these flowers is the start of a mango in the making. Some flowers carry only the male parts while others only the female parts, and sometimes there can be flowers with both (which are biologically called hermaphrodites). Regardless, for the mango to form, pollen must travel between these flowers.

This is where pollinators make their mark. There is a curious history here. Mango cultivars had once insisted that mango flowers are pollinated only by wind. But this theory could not explain why the flowers issued a sweet odour. It had to be to attract insects.

To confirm that insects were indeed pollinators, researchers in Bengaluru teamed up with their peers from Germany to survey several Badami mango farms in the city's urban and rural areas. Their findings, published in 2023, were striking: "We found that allowing flowers access to ants and flying visitors (bees, hoverflies, nonsyrphid flies), dramatically increased mango yield by 350%, highlighting the importance of wild insects for mango pollination," the study paper read.

These flying insects were found to include wild bees such as the dwarf honey bee (*Apis florea*), giant honey bee (*Apis dorsata*), and stingless bees (*Tetragonula sp.*). Other important flying visitors included hoverflies, which look like bees (*Syrphus sp.*), the common house fly (*Musca domestica*), and the blow fly (Calliphoridae family).

Effective pollination

The researchers also observed that the mango yields dropped when they barred crawling insects, such as ants, from the flowers. Soubadra Devy, a senior researcher at the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru, and an author of the study, said ants are "messy pollinators" and that it is essential to investigate them as pollinators of mango in future studies.

Dr. Devy also said she anticipates that the pollinator community is not any different for other Indian mango varieties since the "floral traits, i.e. the flower structure, pollen, and nectar are likely to be very similar".

Researchers have conducted similar studies in Mexico, on the 'Ataulfo' mango, and in Australia, on the 'Kensington Pride' variety – and have revealed similar findings. Both teams also took more steps to determine which insects were the pollinators.

They calculated a 'pollination effectiveness' metric based on the abundance of pollinators, the number of visits to flowers (with a 'legitimate' visits quantified using video cameras on trees), and the number of pollen grains deposited. And both studies showed that wild and native insects were most efficient at pollination, producing a higher yield of fruits.

Non-native bees to Mexico, such as European honey bees (*Apis mellifera*), were abundant and contributed to 80% of the pollination. Paradoxically, however, that did not result in a higher yield. The reason was that these non-native bees stayed around the same trees or in the same orchard and delivered the wrong pollen, resulting in malformed fruits. On the other hand, the native bees transferred pollen between orchards, giving rise to more full and juicy fruits.

Farmers' friends

Yet these native bees are under threat from the same insecticides that protect the mango crop from pests. Neonicotinoid insecticides, which are commonly sprayed on mango trees, are neurotoxic and affect cognitive functions in bees, such as navigation, learning, and memory, and eventually their survival. This ripples through the entire colony, as the insecticides travel to the pollen and nectar and are brought back to the hive by bees.

The Bengaluru-based study observed that fewer bees visited the mango flowers, and the harvested fruits were lighter by almost 30%, resulting in a three-way loss for the farmer: expensive pesticides, loss of pollinators, and a loss in the fruit yield.

Dr. Devy said monoculture farms that prevail in rural areas are more prone to pest attacks, and hence suffer higher pollinator loss as well. However, she also said she sees hope in bee-safe pesticides and in farmers timing their sprays to avoid peak pollinator activity – practices already in use in several western countries.

"One recent welcome move", in her words, was the Indian government recognising pollinators in the country's new 'environmental accounting' framework. This framework recognised that India has more than 800 bee species, plus butterflies, moths, beetles, birds, bats and flies as pollinators and that they are ecologically important for agriculture. The government has also attached a monetary value equivalent to 8-10% of the total crop output value, amounting to ₹2.6 lakh crore in 2021-22, to pollinators.

Rights of pollinators

Attaching a monetary value could nudge policy towards actively protecting our pollinators, through changes at the farm and landscape levels. These could include, as the Mexico study suggested, increasing the spread of natural and semi-natural areas near orchards, such as native forest patches and wildflower strips, to attract more wild insects.

Dr. Devy also pointed out that in May, stingless bees in Peru had become the first insects to win the legal rights to exist, thrive, and be represented in court. This is significant for the conservation of the species against insecticides, climate change, and competition from non-native insects.

The question then arises: will India accord similar rights to its pollinators, which carry the weight of the country's agriculture? As you relish this season's mangoes, it could also be your food for thought.

(Kavitha Kannan is a biologist and science writer. kavithakannan1994@gmail.com)

Artisanal gold miners work at a mining site in Mongbwalu, Ituri Province, DRC on June 16. AFP

Gold miners keep working despite Ebola crisis in DRC

Agence France-Presse

In the mines of Mongbwalu, the epicentre of an Ebola outbreak in the northeastern Democratic Republic Congo (DRC), gold prospectors have no choice but to overcome their fear of the virus and carry on their backbreaking work.

"Ebola is real and it scares us. But if I stay at home, what are my children going to eat?" Justin Okaume, an artisanal digger, asked.

The DRC's 17th Ebola outbreak was declared on May 15 after several unexplained deaths in Mongbwalu in the mineral-rich but volatile Ituri province.

It has claimed more than 250 lives with 1,000 cases in the vast central African nation but the real extent of the crisis is difficult to assess.

In total, 209 people have been infected in Mongbwalu, 89 of whom have died, according to official figures.

The DRC's 17th Ebola outbreak was declared on May 15 after several unexplained deaths in Mongbwalu in the mineral-rich but volatile Ituri province

Several miners were among the victims, Richard Lokudu, the head of the local hospital, said. Behind one miner, greasy, sticky earth stretched as far as the eye could see. The ochre landscape was pockmarked with holes that dozens of artisanal miners tirelessly dug through. Men and women caked in mud broke up rocks that were then crushed to free the gold particles. They spend hours side by side, sweating and wearing themselves out in dire health and safety conditions. Some come from other provinces or neighbouring countries such as Uganda, hoping to earn a few hundred dollars a week, at best.

Jeannette Akelo, a mother of seven and day labourer at the open-pit site, said that the diggers had no choice: they must continue to work "to survive".

The current outbreak is caused by the Bundibugyo strain for which there is no vaccine or specific treatment. Existing Ebola vaccines, developed between 2018 and 2019, are only effective against the Zaire strain, which has caused previous major outbreaks.

In the hills of the rural commune, Red Cross workers in full protective suits have regularly intervened over the past few weeks to wrap bodies and prevent post-mortem transmission of the virus.

In the DRC, most gold production comes from artisanal mining. After long hours, some stopped to eat a plate of rice with a gravy made from leaves. Others preferred not to waste time. With their bare hands, they mixed mercury into the brownish material extracted from the ground. The small greyish, heavy, shiny lump that formed will, once heated, turn into raw gold. "We don't know who is infected or not, and after work everyone goes home," Jean-Baptiste Liwawi said.

The digger said he took ginger and some concoctions to ward off infection.

Since the start of the outbreak, many patients have preferred to consult traditional healers rather than go to hospitals. Public mistrust runs deep in a region that has for years been ravaged by violence waged by various armed groups, which regularly carry out massacres.

In Ituri, almost all gold deposits are controlled by community-based militias, who derive substantial income particularly through the imposition of taxes, according to UN experts. Most of the illegally mined gold is smuggled to Uganda, the experts said in a report on the DRC at the end of 2025.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Unusual sources of energy

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

X uses a planet's gravity to change a spacecraft's speed and direction without using fuel. As the spacecraft swings by, it gains (or loses) momentum relative to the sun, borrowing a small bit of the planet's orbital energy. The Voyager missions famously used this technique to get to the outer Solar System. Name X.

QUESTION 2

In 1969, the physicist Roger Penrose proposed that energy can be extracted from a rotating black hole. Within the _____ — the region just outside the event horizon — an object can be split in two, with one fragment spiralling into the black hole and the other escaping, carrying away more energy than it started with. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 3

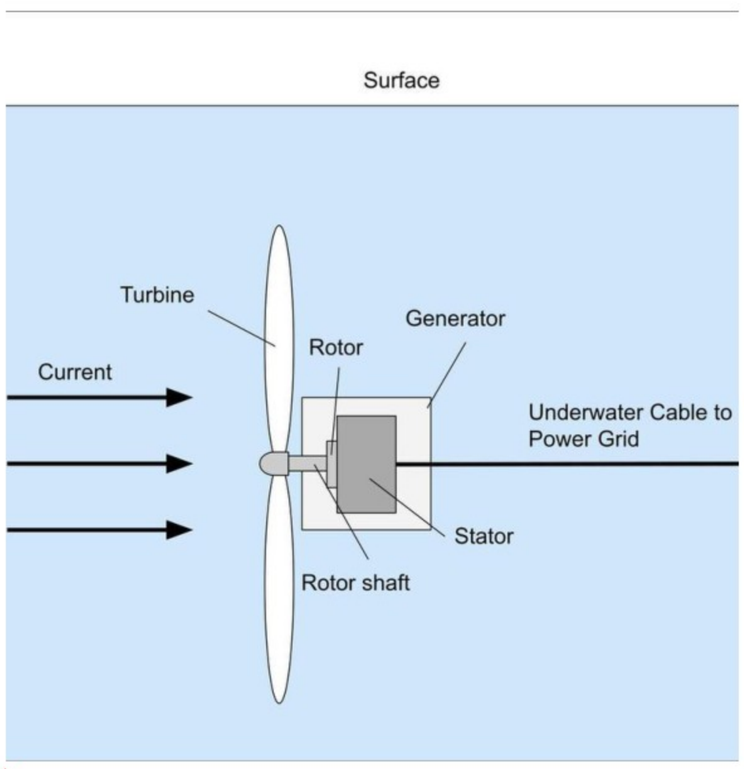
MHD generators produce electricity by passing an electrically conductive fluid, like an ionised gas, through a magnetic field. The moving charged particles induce a current, converting kinetic and thermal energy into electricity, no turbines needed. MHD generators are also highly efficient, but still experimental. What does MHD stand for?

QUESTION 4

A quantum physical phenomenon called the Y effect where two parallel, uncharged conducting plates placed really close together feel a force pulling them together. It arises because the plates restrict which virtual particles can exist between them versus outside, creating an unequal pressure from which a very small amount of energy can be extracted. Name Y.

QUESTION 5

Name the form of power that generates electricity from the difference in salt concentration between seawater and freshwater. As water flows across a semi-permeable membrane towards the saltier side, pressure builds between them and drives a turbine.



Visual: Name the turbine type described here. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Answers to June 18 quiz:

1. When something you've just noticed seems to be everywhere – **Ans: Baader-Meinhof phenomenon**
2. Angle by which object flips in Dzhanibekov effect – **Ans: 180°**
3. Effect when a shampoo stream 'leaps' upwards – **Ans: Kaye effect**
4. When people respond to safety measures with more risk-taking – **Ans: Peltzman effect**
5. Star for whom information suppression backfiring effect is named – **Ans: Barbara Streisand**

Visual: Magnus force

First contact:
Tamal Biswas | K.N. Viswanathan | Anmol Agrawal | Pankaj Gharde | Prem Nath Tiwari

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

ED searches Rajesh Exports over suspected FEMA violations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) conducted search and seizure operations at nine locations in Bengaluru and Mumbai in connection with an ongoing investigation into Rajesh Exports Limited (REL) for the alleged contraventions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

According to a press release issued on Wednesday, the searches began on Tuesday and covered premises linked to the company and its associated persons. The investigation reportedly uncovered several alleged irregularities involving foreign transactions, stock records, management remuneration, and suspected share manipulation.

The ED said the company failed to produce documentation relating to its foreign transactions. The investigators claimed that records relating to an alleged investment of ₹1,035 crore in African mining ventures were neither found during the searches nor provided by the company. Another key issue flagged by the agency concerns the set-off of foreign trade receivables against foreign trade payables amounting to around ₹3,000 crore. The ED alleged that these transactions involved suspicious overseas entities based in foreign jurisdictions.

Officials also reportedly found a stock discrepancy of nearly 40% between inventory recorded in factory registers and the actual stock available.

The investigation has also raised questions about the remuneration paid to senior management. According to the ED, the company's CFO has not received a salary since 2020, while the MD was paid approximately ₹17,000 per month despite the company reporting consolidated revenues of around ₹7.7 lakh crore.

The agency further alleged that suspicious block trades were executed in the company's shares by certain individuals whose names had appeared in leaks published by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists.

During the searches, officials seized various documents and digital evidence, which are currently being examined.

Traffic diversions for Muharram procession

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Traffic Police have announced traffic diversions in parts of the city in connection with Muharram celebrations scheduled for Friday. The diversions will be in effect from 11 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. within the limits of the Ashok Nagar Traffic Police Station.

According to the traffic advisory, motorists travelling towards Hosur Road via Brigade Road and Richmond Road through Vellara Junction (Shoolay Circle) will not be allowed to proceed directly.

They should take a left turn at Old Police Station Junction and travel via Wood Street, Tate Lane and Richmond Road to reach Richmond Circle. From there, they can continue via Shantinagar Junction, Langford Road, Nanjappa Circle and CMP Junction towards Hosur Road.

Vehicles travelling on Hosur Road from the Adugodi side should take a left turn at Cemetery Cross near Anepalya Junction and proceed via Berlie Street, Langford Road, Nanjappa Circle and Shantinagar. Alternatively, motorists may use Rhenius Street to reach Richmond Road and continue towards their destinations.

Heavy vehicles approaching from the Hosur Road side will be diverted via Adugodi Junction, MICO Junction, 8th Main Road, Wilson Garden Main Road and Siddaiah Road before proceeding to their destinations.

APPOINTMENT

KBNU
KHAJA BANDANAWAZ UNIVERSITY
EDUCATING HUMANITY
KALABURAGI, KARNATAKA.

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION
No. 04/2026 Date: 19-06-2026

The Khaja Bandanawaz University is a private University established by an Act of the State Legislature of Karnataka in 2018. The University invites applications from eligible citizens of India for the following teaching and non-teaching positions under the **Faculty of Medical Sciences.**

Teaching Positions:
Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Senior Resident & Tutor under following Departments

- Anatomy
- Physiology
- Biochemistry
- Microbiology
- Forensic Medicine & Toxicology
- Community Medicine
- Pharmacology
- General Surgery
- Psychiatry
- Pathology
- Ophthalmology
- Respiratory Medicine (Chest & TB)
- OBG

Non-Teaching Position:
- Clinical Psychologist & Optometry Technician

Interested candidates may apply via the Google Form by scanning the QR code provided.
The last date to submit the online application is 28th June, 2026.
For further details/updates please visit **www.kbn.university**
Sd/-
Registrar

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
Bangalore - 560012.

Advertisement for the post of Instructor, Teaching Assistant and System Administrator

Applications are invited for the positions of **Instructor, Teaching Assistant and System Administrator** (On Contract) in the Undergraduate Programme at the Institute.

For further details and to apply online, please visit the website **https://iisc.ac.in/careers/contractual-positions/**

Last date of Application – **10.07.2026**

Date: 22.06.2026
Sd/-, REGISTRAR

MARUTI SUZUKI NEXA

Your Summer Deserves An Extraordinary Upgrade.

Bring home the Invicto and experience journeys crafted around luxury and space.

BHARAT NCAP ★★★★★ ★★★★★
EFFECTIVE PRICE ₹22.82 LAKH^
INVICTO THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY

PANORAMIC SUNROOF WITH AMBIENT LIGHTS

2ND ROW CAPTAIN SEATS

NEXA SAFETY SHIELD

UP TO 100% WAIVER ON CAR LOAN PROCESSING FEE**

SCAN TO CONNECT TO A SHOWROOM NEAR YOU

Applicable T&C available at your nearest dealership. ^Effective Price of ₹22.82 lakh calculated basis deduction of Consumer Offer (-) ₹50 000, Exchange Bonus (-) ₹1 00 000, Loyalty Upgrade Bonus (-) ₹50 000 and Corporate Offer (-) ₹15 000 from Ex. showroom Price of ₹24.97 lakh. The actual effective price mentioned may vary based on the customer's eligibility, profile, and applicable offers at the time of purchase. All offers are brought to you by NEXA dealers only. Offers may vary subject to the model and variant purchased and are applicable till stocks last. Maruti Suzuki India Limited reserves the right to withdraw offers at any point in time without any advance notice. Creative visualization. Images used are for illustration purposes only. Features and accessories shown may not be a part of the standard fitment. Black glass shade on the vehicle is due to the lighting effect. As per Bharat NCAP 2025 score. **Finance offers by selected finance partners and at the sole discretion of the financier.

GOOD ENERGIES THAT WORK

The world is changing, and so must energy.
Energy landscapes are evolving from intermittent to dependable, expensive to accessible, and fragmented to integrated. All this without depleting the planet.
This is the shift that will make the new world work.

Because good energy is everything.

SUZLON

Wind-first, full-stack renewable energy solutions

RE TECH : WIND | STORAGE | SOLAR RE DEV CO RE PROJECTS RE AMS

suzlon.com

A BG-BGE

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

New tuberculosis cases found in Maharashtra in 35 days

6,111 Maharashtra has detected 6,111 new tuberculosis (TB) cases within the first 35 days of the Centre's 100-day TB-Free India campaign, while 11,091 villages in the State were identified as high-risk through an AI-based assessment system. Villages in Nagpur, Yavatmal, Amravati, Nashik and Raigad were among those identified. PTI

Children killed by Israel between October 2023-2025

20,000 An inquiry under the UN Human Rights Council called Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, said in its report on Tuesday that 30% of the Palestinians killed from October 2023 to October 2025, over 20,000 in total, were children. PTI

Number of persons who lost their food stamps in the U.S.

4.7 Over 4.7 million people have lost Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, also known as food stamps, since U.S. President Donald Trump's signature tax and spending law took effect last July, as per data through March from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Changes to U.S's second-largest social safety-net programme took hold fastest in Arizona. PTI

Monthly transaction volumes on BHIM app in May

244 In million. The transaction volumes of the BHIM Payments App more than tripled between June 2025 and May 2026, according to NPCI BHIM Services Limited. Monthly transaction volumes on the app, developed by NPCI BHIM Services Limited, rose from 79.64 million in June 2025 to 244 million in May 2026, a release said on Wednesday. PTI

Number of Syrian convicts transferred home by Lebanon

128 Lebanon has transferred 128 Syrian convicts to their home country, a Lebanese security source said on Wednesday, marking the second batch of handovers under an agreement the two sides signed earlier this year. Overcrowded Lebanese prisons host around 2,000 Syrian nationals held on various charges. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu X.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

Why was the *NewsClick* case quashed?

Did *NewsClick* violate FDI rules or FEMA regulations? How did the absence of an FDI cap at the time affect the case? What role did the RBI's approval play in the ruling? What happened in the UAPA case against Prabir Purkayastha?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:
The Delhi High Court has quashed the first information report (FIR) registered by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police and the consequent money laundering proceedings initiated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against news portal *NewsClick* and its editor-in-chief, Prabir Purkayastha, over allegations of foreign funding. Holding the action to be a "mala fide and arbitrary" exercise of power, Justice Neena Bansal Krishna said it amounted to an abuse of the legal process and posed a threat to free and independent journalism.

What were the allegations against *NewsClick*?
The proceedings stemmed from two cases registered in 2020 by the EOW of the Delhi Police and the ED. The EOW case originated from a letter dated June 26, 2020, written by Sobhan Singh, who was an informant and not an aggrieved party, to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, alleging that PPK NewsClick Studios Pvt. Ltd. had misappropriated funds and violated foreign direct investment (FDI) norms. The communication was subsequently forwarded by Vijay Kaushik, Under Secretary in the Ministry, following which the EOW registered an FIR.

The FIR alleged that *NewsClick* had received an investment of $1.5 million from Worldwide Media Holdings LLC, a Delaware-based entity in the United States, at an inflated share valuation. The investigating agency claimed that the premium at which the shares were issued was intended to circumvent the 26% cap on foreign investment in digital news media. However, the investment agreement had been signed in March 2018, and the funds received in April 2018, more than a year before the 26% cap was introduced through a government press note on September 18, 2019.

The allegation that *NewsClick* had manipulated its share valuation also formed the basis of the alleged violations under the Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) Regulations, 2017 (FEMA). The regulations require that shares issued by an Indian entity to a foreign investor be valued in accordance with an internationally accepted pricing methodology and not be transferred below fair value.

The record also showed that, before receiving the investment, *NewsClick* had written to the Information and Broadcasting Ministry in December 2017 seeking clarification on whether online news portals were subject to the FDI restrictions applicable to print media. In January 2018, the Ministry responded that "online publications on website/web portal do not fall under the ambit of print media".

During the proceedings, reference was made to a status report dated July 26, 2021, signed by Assistant Commissioner of Police Anil Kumar of the EOW and supplied to *NewsClick*'s counsel. The report incorporated a response from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stating that the foreign remittance had come through the automatic route and that no FEMA violation was disclosed.

Journalists protest police actions against news portal *NewsClick* at Press Club of India, New Delhi, in October, 2023. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

However, on July 29, 2021, the state sought to distance itself from the report and requested permission from the court to file a fresh status report. When a revised report was eventually filed on October 4, 2021, the RBI's observations were omitted. The EOW nevertheless maintained that *NewsClick*, despite being a loss-making entity, had received FDI at inflated valuations and alleged that the share valuation mechanism had been used to bypass regulatory restrictions. It further claimed that 45% of the foreign investment had been diverted.

Within a week of the FIR being registered, the ED initiated proceedings under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) by registering an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR), similar to an FIR, on the basis of the same allegations. The predicate offences cited in the FIR included criminal breach of trust, cheating and criminal conspiracy.

How did the UAPA case against *NewsClick* unfold?
Apart from the proceedings under FEMA and the PMLA, Mr. Purkayastha and *NewsClick*'s head of human resources, Amit Chakravarty, also faced prosecution under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). In October 2023, the Special Cell of the Delhi Police arrested the duo following a report published by *The New York Times* alleging links between *NewsClick*'s funding and Chinese state-backed propaganda efforts. Mr. Chakravarty subsequently turned approver and was released from custody.

Mr. Purkayastha remained in Tihar Jail for nearly seven months before the Supreme Court, in May 2024, declared his arrest illegal and set aside the remand order. The court found that neither he nor his counsel had been furnished with the written grounds of arrest before he was remanded to custody.

A Bench comprising Justices B.R. Gavai and Sandeep Mehta held that communication of the grounds of arrest in writing by the investigating agency was "sacrosanct and cannot be breached under any situation". The Bench observed that failure to furnish the grounds of arrest would violate the fundamental right guaranteed under Article 22(1) of the Constitution, which provides that no arrested person shall be detained without being informed of the grounds of arrest and shall not be denied the right to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner of their choice.

Accordingly, Mr. Purkayastha was thereafter released on the grounds of not being provided a "communication of the grounds of arrest in written", thus vitiating the arrest and subsequent remand.

What were the court's findings on the alleged FDI violations?
On the allegation of FDI violations, the court noted that the correspondence issued by the RBI approving the transaction between *NewsClick* and Worldwide Media Holdings LLC was sufficient to demonstrate that no violation had occurred. The court reasoned that the transaction had been cleared by the very regulator within whose domain the alleged offence fell. It also took note of the fact that no FDI cap on digital news media existed at the time the investment was made.

Justice Krishna also rejected the State's allegation that over 45% of the foreign investment had been siphoned off through salary payments, consultancy fees and rent. Referring to the company's financial records, the court noted that its expenditure exceeded its revenue during the relevant period.

"When a company is functioning, especially in the business of digital print media, such expenses are bound to occur. Even if it is accepted that there were overpayments and excessive expenditure incurred by the petitioner, it does not disclose any criminal offence. The allegation of siphoning is, therefore, not tenable," the judge said.

Why did the court find that the offences of cheating and criminal breach of trust were not made out?
With regard to the offences of cheating under Section 415 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and criminal breach of trust under Section 406, the court pointed to the absence of any aggrieved party. It noted that Worldwide Media Holdings LLC, the entity that had invested funds in *NewsClick*, had never lodged any criminal complaint. The court further observed that the prosecution had failed to identify any person who could be said to have been deceived, cheated or otherwise suffered any grievance on account of the transaction.

The court also highlighted that Mr. Singh, on whose complaint the FIR was registered, had no direct involvement in the transaction. It held that a commercial investment made in exchange for shares could not, by itself, amount to an entrustment of property so as to attract the offence of criminal breach of trust.

What did the court say about the money laundering charge?
The ED's money laundering case was primarily based on the allegation that Mr. Purkayastha and others had conspired to bring foreign funds into India through an investment in *NewsClick*. It is alleged that ₹9.59 crore (approximately $1.5 million) was routed into the country under the guise of an investment in digital media, thereby attracting the offence of criminal conspiracy under Section 120B of the IPC. According to the agency, Mr. Purkayastha had colluded with Jason Pfetcher of Worldwide Media Holdings LLC and American businessman Neville Roy Singham in facilitating the inflow of funds.

The court, however, rejected the contention and pointed out that a charge of conspiracy requires material indicating an agreement to commit an illegal act or to achieve a lawful objective through unlawful means. Apart from what it described as "bald assertions", the court found no material to suggest the existence of any such agreement or unlawful design. It further noted that despite the ED carrying out extensive investigations for nearly a year and a half, during which the petitioners and several employees were repeatedly summoned, no incriminating material had been placed on record.

"Aside from bald assertions of there being a criminal conspiracy, there is not a whisper of any incriminating allegation which would even remotely suggest the commission of the offence punishable under Section 4 of the PMLA (punishment for money laundering)," the court observed.

Having found the allegation of criminal conspiracy untenable, the court went on to hold that the ED's money laundering case could not survive once the underlying FIR was quashed. Relying on the Supreme Court's decision in *Vijay Madanlal Choudhary v. Union of India (2022)*, it observed that where the predicate offence is set aside, money laundering proceedings founded on the same set of allegations cannot be sustained against the accused. Consequently, the ECIR was also quashed.

THE GIST

- The FIR alleged that NewsClick had received an investment of $1.5 million from Worldwide Media Holdings LLC, a Delaware-based entity in the United States, at an inflated share valuation.
- The court noted that the correspondence issued by the RBI approving the transaction between *NewsClick* and Worldwide Media Holdings LLC was sufficient to demonstrate that no violation had occurred.
- The court held that in the absence of any aggrieved party, charges of cheating and criminal breach of trust could not be made out.

KEA to go digital for rural, Kannada medium certificates

Submits a request to the DSEL to distribute these certificates to candidates in digital form

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

To simplify the verification of documents of candidates seeking reservation under the rural quota and Kannada medium quota in the Common Entrance Test (CET) and other recruitment examinations, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has decided to obtain Rural Certificates and Kannada Medium Certificates in digital form.

The move is aimed at preventing the creation of fake certificates. The KEA has submitted a request to the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) to distribute these certificates to candidates in the digital form. The authority, which conducts the CET for admission to various professional courses, including engineering, allocates seats to more than 2.5 lakh students annually and, through NEET counselling, to over 50,000 students in medical and allied courses.

The move is also aimed at preventing the creation of fake certificates. FILE PHOTO

In addition, it conducts entrance tests for admission to residential schools run by the Social Welfare Department and the Backward Classes Welfare Department, allocating thousands of seats. It also conducts recruitment examinations for various government departments, filling thousands of vacancies every year.

It is mandatory for candidates seeking reservation under the rural quota and Kannada medium quota to submit the relevant certificates. These certificates confirm that the candidate studied in a rural area from Classes 1 to 10 and in the Kannada medium. The candidate obtains the physical certificate attested by the school headmaster and the Block Education Officer (BEO), scans it, and uploads it to the KEA portal. The KEA sends these documents to the department concerned for verification. During this process, it has been noticed that some candidates have been submitting fake certificates. The KEA already receives candidates' caste certificates, income certificates and Aadhaar details in digital form.

In addition, from the current academic year, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) will issue mark sheets and Transfer Certificates (TCs) to SSLC and II PU students in digital format. Prasanna H., executive director, KEA, told *The Hindu*, "Most documents submitted by candidates are being obtained in digital form. This has effectively prevented fake certificates."

Rowdy-sheeter held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) has arrested a notorious rowdy-sheeter who had been absconding despite repeated court summons and warrant orders.

The accused has been identified as Shakib alias Syed Aqib Pasha, 30, a rowdy-sheeter of the Vidyaranyapura Police Station limits. CCB officers traced and apprehended Shakib near a private establishment in Allalasandra, Yelahanka. He was subsequently brought to the CCB office for detailed interrogation.

The police said Shakib, a resident of Mubarak Road near Hunasemarana Halli in J.J. Nagar, has a long criminal history. A verification revealed more than 11 criminal cases registered against him in Bengaluru and other States.

Complaint against websites

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru North City Corporation has filed a cybercrime complaint against websites that were charging people extra money for booking slots at electric crematoriums. Officials say some websites and individuals have been offering crematorium booking services and collecting amounts higher than the official fee, which is ₹250.

Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society
(An Organisation of Govt. of Karnataka)
No. 8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560052

No:KREIS/EE-3/Tender-5/2026-27 Date:24.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Only)

The tenders have been invited for Construction of compound wall, STP, Drain and Civil Repair works in the jurisdiction of KREIS **(Tender Indent No. 827,786/Call-2 and 517)** through e-Portal vide website:http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on 24.06.2026. The last date for receipt of tender is 08.07.2026. The details may be viewed at above website.

Note: Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-procurement portal only.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer-3,
KREIS, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/1339/CCL/2026-27

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Notice Inviting e-Tender

E-tenders are invited from reputed, experienced, OEM or RDSO approved source of RMPU manufacturer or contractors Qualifies Minimum Eligibility Criteria and having Electrical Contractor license by Chief Workshop Manager Coach Rehabilitation Workshop West Central Railway Nishatpura Bhopal for and on behalf of President of India for the under mentioned works.**Tender Notice No.** WCR-CRWS-BPL-EL-T-2026-01 Date:20.06.2026**, Name of work: "** Comprehensive Maintenance Contract for POH activities of RMPU with control panels fitted in AC coaches(LHB type) for 527 coaches (i.e. 1054 RMPU unit)at CRWS Bhopal for 24 months. **Cost of work. :** Rs. 14,65,72,234.05**, Cost of tender form :** 0.00**, Bid Security :** Rs.29,31,500.00**, Bid System :** Two Packet**, Completion Period of work :** 24 months**, Tender Closing Date. :** 13.07.2026 : upto 15.00 Hrs**, Tender Opening Date :** 13.07.2026 After 15:00 Hrs**, Joint Venture /Member allowed :** Yes/Max.03 Members Detailed information about tender and tender format is available at Govt. Of India website www.ireps.gov.in. Tender notice is available at notice board of the office of Chief Workshop Manager, (Electrical branch) Coach Rehabilitation Workshop, Nishatpura, Bhopal. **(Sd.)**
For Chief Workshop Manager
Coach Rehabilitation Workshop
West Central Railway, Nishatpura, Bhopal

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our clients **Mr.MAHMOOD VASIM** S/o Syed Kaleemulla, Aadhaar No. 4462 9339 5435, residing at No.1082, 15th Cross, near AMC Hospital, HBR Layout, 3rd Block, 1 st Phase, Bagngalore-560043, represents that the Allotment Letter dated 30.12.1987, issued by BDA, in the Name of G.Ramakrishna in respect to the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** mentioned hereunder is lost/misplace and not traceable.

If anybody other than the said **Mr.MAHMOOD VASIM** has any claim, right, title and interest on the SCHEDULE PROPERTY by virtue of being in possession or otherwise of the above said Original Documents, or any Rights they should file their claim with documentary proof within **SEVEN DAYS** from the date of issuance of this Public Notice in our office, at the address mentioned below, failing which, it will be taken for granted that nobody has any manner of right, title, interest or claim over the SCHEDULE PROPERTY other than the said **Mr.MAHMOOD VASIM.**

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

The Property bearing **Site No.1082,** Present Katha No.1062/1057/1082, PID No.6329248142 formed by BDA, Situated at **Hennur Bellary Road Layout (HBR Layout) 1st Phase, 3rd Block, Bangalore,** measuring East to West **40 feet** and North to South **30 feet,** totally measuring **1200 Sq.feet** and is bounded on:

East by : Private Property;
West by : Road;
North by : Property No.1083;
South by : Property No.1081;

C.V.Nagendra, Advocate,
Unit No.101, 1st Floor, No.663,
Post office Road, Opp: to Karnataka Bank,
K.R.Puram, Bangalore-560036.
Place:- Bangalore Date:-24.06.2026

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Jayanagara Zone) Bengaluru South City Corporation, 9th Cross, 9th Main, Jayanagara, 2nd Block, Bengaluru -560011.

No: SADH(JNZ)TENDER/01/2026-27 Date:24-06-2026

LETTER OF INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Two Cover System)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Jayanagara Zone), BSCC, (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to Implement in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies / Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour department for Maintenance of Parks and Borewells.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Yarab Nagara Ward Parks (Ward No-3) Estimate Cost: ₹. 1,75,000.00, Amount put to tender : ₹. 1,73,460.00, EMD Amount ₹. 4,350.00.
2	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Tilaknagara Ward Parks (Ward No-8) Estimate Cost: ₹. 3,60,000.00, Amount put to tender : ₹. 3,56,300.00, EMD Amount ₹. 8,910.00.
3	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Marenahalli South Ward Parks (Ward No-13) Estimate Cost: ₹. 5,00,000.00, Amount put to tender : ₹. 4,91,960.00, EMD Amount ₹. 12,300.00.
4	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Beguru Ward Parks (Ward No-36) Estimate Cost: ₹. 5,68,000.00, Amount put to tender : ₹. 5,64,500.00, EMD Amount ₹. 14,120.00.
5	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Banashankari Temple Ward Parks (Ward No - 4) Estimate Cost: ₹. 6,00,000.00, Amount put to tender : ₹. 5,04,270.00, EMD Amount ₹. 12,650.00.
6	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in NAL Layout Ward Parks (Ward No-9) Estimate Cost: ₹. 7,40,000.00, Amount put to tender : ₹. 7,35,140.00, EMD Amount ₹. 18,380.00.
7	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Kothanur Ward Parks (Ward No-41) Estimate Cost: ₹. 14,00,000.00, Amount put to tender : ₹. 13,80,000.00, EMD Amount ₹. 34,500.00.
8	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Shakambari Nagar Ward Parks (Ward No-15) Estimate Cost: ₹. 17,95,000.00, Amount put to tender : ₹. 17,91,100.00, EMD Amount ₹. 44,780.00.
9	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Uttarahalli Ward Parks (Ward No-49) Estimate Cost: ₹. 19,10,000.00, Amount put to tender : ₹. 19,05,920.00, EMD Amount ₹. 47,650.00.
10	Maintenance of Horticulture Works & Road Medians in Sarakki Ward Parks (Ward No-16) Estimate Cost: ₹. 21,30,000.00, Amount put to tender : ₹. 21,27,190.00, EMD Amount ₹. 50,000.00.
11	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Gowdanapaiya Ward Parks (Ward No-6) Estimate Cost: ₹. 24,25,000.00, Amount put to tender : ₹. 24,22,750.00, EMD Amount ₹. 50,000.00.
12	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Vasanthapura Ward Parks (Ward No-48) Estimate Cost: ₹. 28,40,000.00, Amount put to tender : ₹. 28,35,010.00, EMD Amount ₹. 56,710.00.
13	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Yelachenahalli Ward Parks (Ward No-46) Estimate Cost: ₹. 29,50,000.00, Amount put to tender : ₹. 29,37,950.00, EMD Amount ₹. 58,760.00.
14	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Gottigere Ward Parks (Ward No-39) Estimate Cost: ₹. 47,00,000.00, Amount put to tender : ₹. 46,89,370.00, EMD Amount ₹. 93,800.00.
15	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Byrasandra Ward Parks (Ward No-7) Estimate Cost: ₹. 49,50,000.00, Amount put to tender : ₹. 49,46,080.00, EMD Amount ₹. 98,950.00.
16	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Anjanapura Ward Parks (Ward No-40) Estimate Cost: ₹. 49,95,000.00, Amount put to tender : ₹. 49,89,860.00, EMD Amount ₹. 99,800.00.
17	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Konanakunte Ward Parks (Ward No-45) Estimate Cost: ₹. 51,55,000.00, Amount put to tender : ₹. 50,89,354.00, EMD Amount ₹. 1,01,800.00.
18	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Padmanablia nagara Ward Parks (Ward No-1) Estimate Cost: ₹. 58,00,000.00, Amount put to tender : ₹. 56,18,920.00, EMD Amount ₹. 1,12,380.00.
19	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in J.P.Nagar Parks (Ward No-14) Estimate Cost: ₹. 61,85,000.00, Amount put to tender : ₹. 61,33,340.00, EMD Amount ₹. 1,22,700.00.
20	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in R.B.I. Layout Ward Parks (Ward No-42) Estimate Cost: ₹. 68,70,000.00, Amount put to tender : ₹. 58,86,230.00, EMD Amount ₹. 1,17,750.00.
21	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Pattabhiramanagara Ward Parks (Ward No-12) Estimate Cost: ₹. 86,10,000.00, Amount put to tender : ₹. 86,06,410.00, EMD Amount ₹. 1,72,200.00.
22	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Kane Muneswara Ward Parks (Ward No-5) Estimate Cost: ₹. 1,24,30,000.00, Amount put to tender : ₹. 1,23,70,072.00, EMD Amount ₹. 2,00,000.00.
23	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Subramanyapura Ward Parks (Ward No-51) Estimate Cost: ₹. 1,37,60,000.00, Amount put to tender : ₹. 1,37,54,845.00, EMD Amount ₹. 2,06,500.00.

Calendar of Events : (1) Date of Notification on **24-06-2026** (2) Tender can be downloaded from **29-06-2026** (3) Pre bid Meeting on **02-07-2026** at **4:00** pm (4) Tender Closing Date **10-07-2026** at **4:00** pm (5) Technical bid opening date **13-07-2026** at **11:30** am (6) Financially bid opening date: After Approval Technical Bid

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture
Jayanagara Zone, BSCC

Government of Karnataka
(Forest Department)
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CHILDREN PARK CUM MINI ZOO, KALABURGI.
Near District Court, Kalaburagi Office Phone No.: 08472:256601
E-mail: dcf_tgulbarga@yahoo.co.in

No. DD/ZOO/FOOD/Nonveg/E-Tender/2026-27 Date : 23-06-2026

:: SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

1) Detail of work: Tender for Supply of fish, egg, milk & meat of buffalo above the age of thirteen years for the feeding of captive carnivore wild Animals and birds housed at different units in Kalaburagi New Zoological park Madbol, 2) Budget Head : **ZAK,** 3) Amount of Estimate: **Mini (In Lakhs) : 8.799, Maximum (In Lakhs) : 79.190,** 4) Eligibility of Contractor/firm : As per tender documents, 5) Details of Tender application Amount and EMD Amount : Tender Fee & EMD As per Tender Document, 6) last Date & Time for Tender Queries / Clarifications : **06-07-2026 up to 4.00 PM,** 7) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tender : **08-07-2026 up to 4.00 PM,** 8) Date and time for opening of Technical Bid : **09-07-2026 after 4.30 pm,** 9) Date and Time for Opening of Financial Bid : **10-07-2026 after 5.00 PM,** 10) Add. Information : Assistant Conservator of Forests & Deputy Director Children Park Cum Mini Zoo, Kalaburagi, 11) Address of E-Portal : **http:kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests &
Deputy Director of Children Park Cum Mini Zoo, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/249/KSMC&A/2026-27

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is intending to purchase all that immovable property being agricultural land more fully described in the Schedule hereunder written, for a valuable sale price from **Mr. CHANNARAMAIAH,** aged about 80 years, son of late Muniswamappa, residing at Antharahalli Village, Thubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District -561203, who has represented to my client that he is the sole and absolute owner of the Schedule property.

The General public are hereby notified that any person/s having any ownership, share, claims, right, title, interest, possession or any objection/s and/or opposing the sale transaction in whatsoever manner may lodge his/her/their objection/s with relevant documentary proof in writing to the undersigned within **FIFTEEN DAYS** from the date of this publication, failing which it will be presumed that no other person has any ownership, claim, right, title or interest over the Schedule property and my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of immovable property being agricultural land measuring a total extent of Four (04) Acres in Survey No.127, formerly a portion of Survey No.5, situated at Kamaluru Village, Thubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, and bounded on the **East by :** Government land, **West by :** Land bearing Survey No.128, **North by :** Road, and **South by :** Land bearing Survey No.23/4 belonging to Sushilamma.

K.N. KRISHNA RAO, Advocate
No.23/3, Hare Krishna Road
High Grounds, Bengaluru-560001
Phone (Mobile) : 9448073522
Place: Bengaluru Date: 25-06-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, **Sri. M. V. Chandrashekara Reddy (Purchaser),** intends to purchase the property from **Sri. Smaran S. Reddy (Seller/Owner)** more fully mentioned and described in the Schedule hereunder. The Seller/Owner represents that he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property and have a good, marketable right, title and interest therein, and that apart from him, there are no other person/s having any right or claim over the Schedule Property. The Seller/Owner further represents that he has not entered into any Agreements / Memorandum of Understanding etc., nor have mortgaged, created any right, interest, lien or encumbered the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner whatsoever with any person/s. Any person/s having objection/s or claims shall, with documentary evidence, lodge their objection/s or claims within **Seven (07) days** from the date of this Notice with the Undersigned, failing which, my client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing BDA **Site No. 286,** formed by the B.D.A. in **Sector-IV of Hosur Sarjapur Road Layout (HSR Layout), Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru – 560 102,** admeasuring East to West **15.24 Meters** and North to South **24.28 Meters,** totally measuring **370.02 Square Meters,** along with a building comprising of Ground Floor and First Floor, in all measuring a Gross Built-Up area of **5,000 Square Feet,** and bounded as follows:
Bounded By
East By : Site No. 285
West By : Plot No. 287
North By : 40 Feet Road
South By : Site No. 291 and 292

Any person/s having any right, claim, interest or encumbrance over the above-mentioned Schedule Property are hereby called upon to lodge their objection/s or claims within **Seven (07) days** from the date of publication of this Notice, with full documentary evidence, with the Undersigned Advocate. Failing to do so within the stipulated time, my client shall proceed with the transaction and the objections/claims, if any, received thereafter shall not be entertained.

Hari Prasad C Reddy
Advocate
No.3, 4 & 7, First Floor,
"HMS HHS Complex" Cubbonpet
Main Road, Bengaluru – 560 002
Place: Bengaluru Date:23/06/2026

UNION BANK OF INDIA
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Regional Office : 2254, Kousalya, 3rd Floor, Vinoba Road, Mysuru-570005

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised officer of **Union Bank of India** (secured Creditor) will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is basis"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder.

Harohalli Branch, Kempaiah Building, Harohalli Village & Post, Ramanagara - 562112
Ph: 7351002858, Mail Id: ubin0814580@unionbankofindia.bank.in

1. Name And Address Of the Borrower, Co-application And Guarantor :
1) Mr. Srikantaiah G C, S/o Late Chame Gowda, Gottigehalli Village, Harohalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramangara-562117
2. Mr. Shivanna T (as He Is Deceased) His Legal Heirs
1. Chaluvamma W/o Late Shivanna T,
2. Mr. Madhu Gowda S/o Late Shivanna T,
3. Ms Nethravathi D/o Late Shivanna T And
4. Ms Nirguna D/o Late Shivanna T
All are residing At Gottigehalli Village, Harohalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara - 562112
Amount due : Rs. 3,25,027-00 as on 31-05-2026 with further interest, cost & expenses
Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold : All The Part And The Parcel Of Residential House In The Name Of **Mr. Srikantaiah,** Bearing Property No 24/87/A, Khaneshumari No. 19/87, Gottigehalli Village, Harohalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramangara Dist. **Measuring East - West : 43 feet, North - South : 45 feet, Total 1935 square feet, Bounded On The East:** Property Of Bachchegowda, **West:** Shankarappa G N Shivanna's Propety, **North:** Property Of Smt Chikkananjamma And Road, **South:** Property Of Smt Thayi Muddamma.

Reserve Price : Rs. 23,81,734-00
(Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Eighty One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Four only)
Earnest Money to Be Deposited :
Rs. 2,38,173-00(Rupees Two Lakhs Thirty Eight Thousand One Hundred and Seventy Three only).

Bidadi Branch, Mysore-Bangalore Road, Near Bus Stand, Bidadi, Bengaluru – 562109
Contact No: 8281034060, Mail Id:ubin0909092@unionbankofindia.bank.in

2. Name And Address Of the Borrower, Co-application And Guarantor :
1. Mr. Chidananda C, S/o Cheluvaiah, # 42, Vrushabhavathipura Village, Ittamadu Post, Near Railway Station, Bidadi.
2. Mrs. Mangalagowramma, W/o, Cheluvaiah# 42, Vrushabhavathipura Village, Ittamadu Post, Near Railway Station, Bidadi.
3. Mrs. Reshma W/o Late Mr. Lokesh C, # 42, Vrushabhavathipura Village, Ittamadu Post, Near Railway Station, Bidadi - 562109
Amount due : Rs. 31,53,196-00 as on 31-05-2026 with further interest, cost & expenses
Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold : All The Part And Parcel Of The Residential Land And Building In The Name Of **Chidananda C,** Bearing Plot No. 15290040130010062 6, Old Kanesumari No. 23/346, Present Katha No-01/23/346, Vrushabhavathipura Village, Ittamadu Post, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara. **Measuring East - West : 35 Feet, North - South : 55 Feet, Total: 1925 Square feet. Bounded By East:** House Of Mahadevaiah, **West:** Road, **North:** Road, **South:** Private Property.

Reserve Price : Rs. 81,12,395-00
(Rupees Eighty One Lakhs Twelve Thousand Three Hundred and Ninety Five only)
Earnest Money to Be Deposited :
Rs. 8,11,239-00 (Rupees Eighty Lakhs Eleven Thousand Two Hundred and Thirty Nine only)

Date and time of E-Auction : Date: 28-07-2026 From 12.00 pm to 5.00 PM (with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)
Last date for submission of EMD : On or before the commencement of e-Auction.
E-auction website- https://baanknet.com

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale and registration and login and bidding rules visit : please refer to the link provided : https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/auction-property/view-auction-property.aspx

Date : 25-06-2026
Place : Mysuru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India.

KERALA BANK
Kerala State Co-operative Bank
PB.No.6515, COBANK TOWERS, VIKAS BHAVAN.P.O, PALAYAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM., PIN-695033

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited from the Public Sector Insurance Companies (Through their Regional Offices or Divisional Offices) or from Insurance Broking Companies having a registered office in Kerala State approved by IRDA representing the Public Sector Insurance Companies, for the renewal of (1) Group Medical Insurance policy for Permanent Employees, Gold Appraisers, Collection Agents and their family, (2) Night Watchmen, Security, Contract, Daily Waged Employees and their family, (3) Parent/Parent-in-law of Employees, Retired Employees & their Spouse, (4) Group Personal Accident Insurance (Death Only) for Permanent Employees of the Bank. E-tender documents can be obtained from e-tender website of Kerala State Government (**www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**) and details are also available in the Bank's Website: **https://kerala.bank.in**

Tender ID: **2026_KSCB_857409_1**

The cut-off date for submission of E-tenders is **6.00 p.m, 16/07/2026**

Thiruvananthapuram (Sd/-)
24/06/2026 Chief Executive Officer

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
ಹಿರಿಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ) ರವರ ಜಿ.ಬಿ.ಎ. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ನರಸಿಂಹರಾಜ ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560002.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕೇ.ನ.ಪಾ.ಹಿ.ಸ.ನಿ.(ಶಿ)/ಪಿ.ಆರ್/357/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24–06–2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ವಿಷಯ : 2026–27 ನೇ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಶಿಶುವಿಹಾರ ಶಾಲೆಯಿಂದ ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳವರೆಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಶೂ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲುಚೀಲಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ : ಮಾನ್ಯ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು ರವರು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ರವರ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16–06–2026.

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಷಯ ಮತ್ತು ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, 2026–27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ 50–ಶಿಶುವಿಹಾರ, 11–ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ, 19–ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲೆ ಹಾಗೂ 09–ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯಕವಾಗಿ ಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ ಶೂ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲೂಚೀಲಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು / ಮಳಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಖರೀದಿಸಿ ವಿತರಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲು ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಖರೀದಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಖರೀದಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳ ವಿವರ	ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ
1	ಶೂ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲೂಚೀಲ	ಶಿಶುವಿಹಾರ ಶಾಲೆಯಿಂದ ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನವರೆಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ	9,859	ಪ್ರತಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗೆ

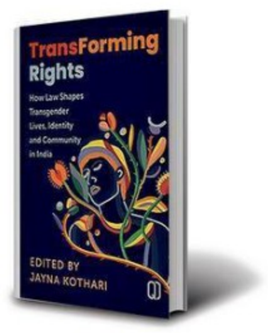
–: ಷರತ್ತು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು :–

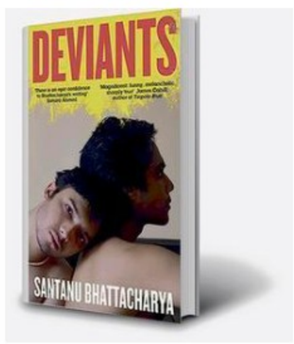
1) ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ 50–ಶಿಶುವಿಹಾರ, 11–ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ, 19–ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲೆ ಹಾಗೂ 09–ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗೆ ದರ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟತೆಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ. 2) ಸದರಿ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ನೀಡುವ ದರಗಳು ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ. ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. 3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04–07–2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 4) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06–07–2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಆಸಕ್ತ ಉಳ್ಳವರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

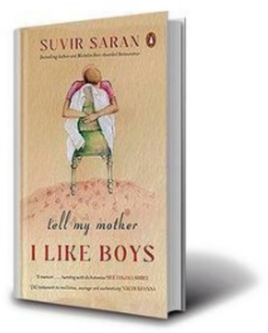
ಸಹಿ/–
ಹಿರಿಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ), ಬೆಂಕೇನಪಾ.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

People take part in the Karnataka Swabhimana Habba Pride March on June 21. SUDHAKARA JAIN







Mapping queer lives through books: identity, resistance and equality in India

A selection of fiction and non-fiction works offers a layered understanding of the evolving realities of queer life in India, spanning law, personal memory, family, and workplaces; they show how identities are shaped by legal frameworks, lived experiences, and intergenerational shifts

Soma Basu

Every June, the world observes Pride Month, which traces its origins to the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York City. In response to a police raid at the Stonewall Inn at Greenwich Village in the U.S., the LGBTQI+ began protests and demonstrations. This marked a pivotal turning point for the modern LGBTQIA+ rights movement.

In India, the LGBTQI+ rights movement has been dynamic, securing significant legal protections for the community. However, the latest Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026 – which removes the statutory recognition of self-perceived gender identity, introduces medical-board certification and bureaucratic verification requirements, and mandates inclusion in a National Transgender Registry – has brought the gap between legal recognition and lived reality into sharp focus once again.

One step forward, two steps back

Medical gatekeeping is an infringement on dignity, autonomy, personal liberty, and privacy. So long as recognition remains conditional, equality remains incomplete. Advocate Jayna Kothari explains the relationship between law and the lived realities of transgender people in *Transforming Rights: How Law Shapes Transgender Lives, Identity and Community in India* (QD). The collection of essays examines India's transformation in transgender rights, from the recognition of gender self-determination and the decriminalisation of same-sex relations to the recent legislative rollback of self-identification rights.

Even as the courts have laid down a framework for equal protection under the law, the trans community continues to face exclusion and discrimination, and remains engaged in a struggle for basic rights to education, healthcare, livelihood, and shelter. Kothari questions the contradiction in the compilation of voices of scholars, activists, lawyers, policy researchers, and community members, who have experience in working with the wider LGBTQIA+ community. The chapters explore the constitutional trajectory of equality and protection in transgender rights cases, the implementation of reservations, questions of intimacy, the impact of increased surveillance and safety measures on trans lives, public attitudes, and structural exclusion. Drawing on legal, social, and community-based perspectives, the essays outline the progress made over the years, the continuing challenges, and the reforms still needed.

Lived experiences

While the legal framework helps us understand the rights framework, it does not capture the lived realities of the community. It is in personal narratives, memoirs, and community storytelling that these experiences find expression. Existing outside traditional narratives is not easy for queer people, who are often compelled to create their own spaces. To write a memoir is to be deeply vulnerable with the reader.

Michelin-starred chef Suvir Saran's *Tell My Mother I Like Boys* (Penguin Random House) is a deeply personal and hard-hitting memoir. It is a frank account of the abuse he endured and how he found sanctuary in the kitchen.

For Saran, cooking was never just about taste, but about memory and survival. The story oscillates between the opening of Devi, the first Indian restaurant in North America, and Saran's reckoning with identity and the loneliness that followed his success.

He writes that he suffered enough heartbreak to stop being afraid of his own truth, and could therefore write an emotionally naked memoir without resorting to self-pity. He describes himself as an "unsummoned third child kept almost by accident," raised in Delhi in the 1970s, when plurality was an instinct rather than a slogan. Saran does not downplay the trauma of children who do not fit the mould; his accounts of teasing, shame, and internal panic are unflinching.

The book also explores his life in Manhattan, marked by ambition, love, betrayal, infidelity, and loneliness. The honesty with which he lays bare his emotional interior strengthens the book. Saran is open about the relationships that shaped or broke him and talks about his mother who helped him heal when he returned to India. As Saran writes in the preface, "This book is not a chronicle. It is a monsoon. It pours, it pauses, it floods, it recedes, it returns."

Queerness across generations

Saran's account opens up a broader question of how queer identity is also shaped within families and across generations. In *Deviants* (Fig Tree), Shantanu Bhattacharya writes a bold, multi-generational story of three gay men from the same family who, from the 1970s to the present day, fight against the tide for love and dignity. It is about Vivaan, a teenager, who discovers boundary-breaking love on his smartphone. His parents are aware of his gender identity, and Vivaan can count on their support.

But Mambro, his uncle, born 30 years earlier, had it different when he fell in love with a male classmate at a time when the persecution of gay people was rife under a colonial-era law criminalising homosexuality.

And Mambro's uncle, Sukumar, a young man hopelessly in love with another young man, was forced by social taboos to keep their relationship a secret.

Interweaving three distinct voices on queer life in India, the book provides insight into changing laws and attitudes towards homosexuality and offers a poignant account of how these shifts directly impact individuals.

Apart from narratives of love and family, there are also books that explore queer identity in relation to institutions and workplaces. *Queeristan: LGBTQ Inclusion in the Indian Workplace* by Parmesh Shahani (Westland) is groundbreaking as a part memoir and part manifesto for HR professionals and executives on how to build safe, equitable, and profitable corporate environments in India. The author draws from his decade-long journey as a gay man in the corporate world in the post-Section 377 landscape to make a cogent case for LGBTQI+ inclusion and lay down guidelines for reshaping office culture in the country. The book traces the benefits reaped by industry giants such as Godrej, Tata Steel, IBM, Wipro, and the Lalit group of hotels, who have tapped into the power of diversity and revolutionised LGBTQI+-friendly workspaces.

These books – memoir, fiction, and non-fiction trace the changing contours of queer life in India – its intimacies, its institutions, and the unfinished fight for equality. They reflect the ongoing struggle for acceptance in an unforgiving society, and help us understand how much has changed, and how much has remained the same.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

As we enter the second half of 2026, here's a quiz on video games released so far. Identify the titles from the hints provided below

Mohammed Hidhayat

QUESTION 1
A reimaging of James Bond from the studio behind the Hitman series.

QUESTION 2
The latest instalment of the long-running survival-horror franchise. You play as dual protagonists.

QUESTION 3
This new IP from Capcom follows an astronaut and an Android youngling as they fight their way through AI threats while trying to return to Earth.

QUESTION 4
A meditative yet tense mountain-climbing survival game with stunning landscapes.

QUESTION 5
From the makers of Returnal, this third-person roguelite shooter is set on a shape-shifting planet. Fast-paced combat and elements of cosmic horror elevate the gameplay. The main character is Arjun Devraj.

QUESTION 6
_____ is a 90s' coming-of-age narrative adventure game complete with stop-motion inspired animation and a loaded jukebox. It chronicles the last day of summer of three high-school friends. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 7
This hard to play 2-D game with an anthropomorphic mouse evokes retro nostalgia with its pixel-art aesthetic and has generated constant Game of the Year buzz.

Visual Question: Unarguably the most awaited video game of the year. Pre-orders are expected to begin today. Identify the open-world video game title from the promotional still.

Questions and answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. Who holds the record of scoring the most goals in a single World Cup match? **Ans: Oleg Salenko, Russia**
2. Who holds the record of having played in most minutes in World Cup history? **Ans: Lionel Messi, Argentina – 2315 minutes till 2022 edition**
3. Who is the only player to have won the Golden Ball and Golden Glove awards in the same World Cup tournament? **Ans: Oliver Kahn, Germany**
4. Who won the Golden Boot and Golden Ball in the same World Cup and was part of the winning team? **Ans: Paolo Rossi of Italy**
5. Who has won the World Cup as a player, coach/manager and also won the Best Young Player award? **Ans: Franz Beckenbauer, Germany**
6. Which country withdrew from the 1950 World Cup because FIFA required players to wear boots, while they were accustomed to playing barefoot? **Ans: India**
7. Visual: Who holds the records for youngest goal, hat-trick, and final goal in World Cup history? **Ans: Pele**

Early Birds

Tamal Biswas| Piyali Tuli| Sudhir Thapa| Suchit Narottam

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"Hi, Sorry, I'm late."

"I have been waiting for an hour. Where have you been?"

"I went to see my cousin Vishvanath at the nursing home. He is going to be operated tomorrow. His appendix is being removed."

"Doctors usually perform an operation on someone. They don't 'operate' someone, they 'operate on' someone. Your cousin is being operated on for appendicitis tomorrow."

"Operated on, eh? I see. How does this sound? The surgeon said that he planned to operate on the Principal some time next week."

"Why don't you leave your Principal out of your examples! Last week my best friend's mother was operated on. Tell me, who is the doctor who is going...."

"....I heard this morning that the doctor who is going to operate on my cousin isn't very good."

"Who told you that?"

"Madhu. He said that the last person that this doctor operated, died on the... I mean that the last person that the doctor operated on died on the operation table."

"That's terrible. Did you tell your cousin about this?"

"Yes, I did. But he is not at all worried. According to his opinion, if someone...."

"....you cannot say 'according to his opinion'. You can either say, 'according to him/her', or 'in his/her opinion'."

"I see. According to the doctors the operation is a minor one."

"In the doctors' opinion the operation is a minor one."

"According to my cousin, the operation is so minor that even a medical student could perform it with his eyes closed."

"Perform an operation with one's eyes closed! Good grief! In my opinion your cousin isn't taking things seriously."

"That's what my father thinks too! According to me, both of you....oops, sorry! You cannot say, 'according to me', right?"

"That's right! It's always 'according to someone else'. If you want to express an opinion, then you have to say...."

"....in my opinion. In my opinion you correct me too often."

"That's a good example. Or you could say, 'If you ask me, you correct me too often'."

"If you ask me, there is too much corruption our country."

"Let's not start talking about it please. People in this country only talk about it. They don't do anything about it."

"There's nothing we can do about it."

" Can I say the corruption in this country..."

"Why are you so fixated on corruption?"

"Fixated? What does it mean?... Wait let me guess. When you are fixated on something, you are always thinking about it. Am I right?"

"Excellent. You don't merely think about it, but you constantly talk about it as well."

"Like our friend Raja. He is constantly talking about cricket."

"Exactly! When you are fixated on something, it becomes your obsession. You are thinking about it excessively. You can be fixated on a person as well. My friend Janaki remains fixated on things which keep reminding her of her dead grandmother."

Published in The Hindu on January 30, 2001.

Word of the day

Estival:
of or occurring in summer

Synonyms: summery, aestival

Usage: *The clear blue sky had a distinct estival feel to it.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/estival

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈɛs.tɪ.vəl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Bus pass amount will be refunded within seven days, says KSRTC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The KSRTC said students need not visit any transport corporation office or pass counter, as the entire refund process will be carried out online. FILE PHOTO

Students who paid for bus passes for the 2026-27 academic year can get the amount refunded to their bank accounts within seven days of applying through the State government's Seva Sindhu portal, following Karnataka's decision to provide free bus passes to all school and college students travelling on State-run transport services.

In a press release, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) said student bus passes for the academic year 2026-27 have been issued through the Education Department's EDCS Seva Sindhu portal since May 29, 2026. Subsequently, the State government announced free bus passes for students using services operated by KSRTC, Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), North West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) and Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC).

Students who paid the prescribed fee and obtained bus passes through the Seva Sindhu portal from May 29 onwards are eligible for a refund. To claim the amount, students must log in to the Seva Sindhu portal using their registered mobile number and OTP, complete Aadhaar-based e-KYC verification and submit their own or their parents' bank account details.

According to KSRTC, the refund amount will be credited directly to the bank account through NEFT/RTGS within seven days of submitting the application. Students will also receive an SMS confirming the refund. The corporation clarified that students need not visit any transport corporation office or pass counter, as the entire refund process will be carried out online.

IIMB scores 9.7 in global positive impact rating, retains top pioneering school status

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The institute was also designated a Level 5 Pioneering School for fifth consecutive year, the highest category within the framework.

In the 2026 edition of the Positive Impact Rating (PIR) for Business Schools, a global student-led assessment of societal impact, the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) earned an overall score of 9.7, substantially higher than the global average of 8.0.

The Institute was also designated a Level 5 Pioneering School for the fifth consecutive year, the highest category within the PIR framework. It recorded strong results in the PIR's 'Energise' and 'Educate' parameters. Under 'Energise', which evaluates governance (9.8) and culture (9.7), IIMB scored 9.8. Under 'Educate', which assesses programmes (9.7), learning methods (9.6) and student support (9.6), the Institute scored 9.6 overall, breaking the global average of 7.9. Parameters such as role model and public engagement under 'Enable' also recorded standout performances, according to a release.

Positive Impact Rating (PIR) is governed by a Swiss association and was initiated by a coalition of business school experts. It is supported by founding endorsers, including WWF, Oxfam International and the UN Global Compact Switzerland and Liechtenstein, with funding from VIVA Idea and the Institute for Business Sustainability.

The rating evaluates business schools on the positive impact they create for society rather than focusing solely on academic excellence or institutional reputation.

The 2026 edition drew nearly 20,000 valid student responses from 87 business schools across 32 countries and five continents, making it the largest PIR edition to date.

Every MSME Has
A Growth Story.

The Next Chapter Starts Here.

Join policymakers, industry leaders, investors, and technology partners at the businessline MSME Growth Conclave 2026 to understand new opportunities, discuss critical issues, and build the capabilities needed to scale your business.

June 25, 2026 | 5:00 PM onwards | Bengaluru

Scan the QR code
to watch it live or visit
thbl.news/MSMEBLLS

thehindubusinessline.
THE HINDU GROUP
MSME GROWTH CONCLAVE
BENGALURU - 2026

Co-powered by
सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया
Central Bank of India

Chief Guest
5:10 pm - 5:30 pm
Dr Sharanaprakash Rudrappa Patil
Minister for Medical Education
and Skill Development of Karnataka

Keynote Speaker
5:30 pm - 5:40 pm
B V Naidu
Chairman, Karnataka Digital
Economy Mission (KDEM)

Session 1 (5:45 pm - 6:30 pm):
ESDM- From Vendors to Value Creators
Ashok Chandak
President, IESA
Sachin Dhruva Naik
Founder & CEO, Cuzor Labs
B S Srinivasan
Managing Partner,
Viprof Electronics
Sonam Motwani
Founder & CEO,
Karkhana.io
Venkatesha Babu
Moderator, Resident Editor,
The Hindu businessline

Fireside Chat
6:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Satish Kumar T
Chairman & Managing Director,
Milky Mist Dairy Food
In conversation with
Raghuvir Srinivasan
Editor, The Hindu businessline

Session 2 (7:00 PM - 7:45 PM):
Talent skilling and labour challenges
Rakesh Patil
Co-Founder & CTO,
Beyond Appliances
Kartik Narayan
CEO, Apna Co
Nitin Dave
CEO, Staffing Solutions,
Quess Corp
Nagaraju S
Council Member, Panel Chaiman,
Labour Law, KASSIA, Synergy
Punching (Promoter and Director)
Bharat Kumar
Moderator, Digital Editor,
The Hindu businessline

Associate Partners
Luxury Realty Partner
Education Partner
SUV Partner
State Partner

Snag raises questions over metro's crisis management

In recent years, the metro corridors have witnessed multiple suspensions and delays caused by signalling failures, brake-related issues, power supply interruptions, and operational glitches

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

A day after thousands of commuters were left stranded across Bengaluru on Tuesday evening after a technical fault on the underground section of the Purple Line near Cubbon Park Metro Station brought train services to a halt during peak commuting hours, concerns have been raised again over the preparedness of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to handle major disruptions.

The disruption, which began around 6.30 p.m., affected services on one of the city's busiest metro corridors connecting Whitefield and Challaghatta. While partial operations were maintained on either side of the affected stretch, services through the underground section remained suspended for several hours, leading to overcrowding at stations and forcing commuters to seek alternative modes of transport.

The incident is the latest in a series of disruptions that have affected Bengaluru's metro network in recent years.

The Purple Line and other corridors have witnessed multiple suspensions and delays caused by signalling failures, brake-related issues, power supply interruptions, and operational glitches.

Metro officials said that the disruptions are not uncommon in large urban rail systems and can occur for a variety of reasons.

Stranded passengers were seen crowding at the entrance of Cubbon Park Metro Station, following a technical fault that halted Purple Line operations, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Series of disruptions

"Heavy rains and gusty winds sometimes cause tree branches to fall on elevated tracks. At times, overcrowding prevents train doors from closing properly. Power supply issues or incidents involving passengers entering the tracks can also lead to service interruptions," a senior BMRCL official said.

However, officials maintained that Tuesday's disruption was different and involved a technical fault that required extensive repairs before services could be restored safely.

The incident has also renewed attention on the operational challenges faced by the newly inaugurated Yellow Line. Since entering service, the corridor connecting the southern parts of the city and Electronics City has experienced several technical snags, including brake-system failures.

> Transport agencies must have a well-defined stranded passenger SOP to handle major service disruptions
>
> **ASHISH VERMA**
> Professor, Transportation Planning and Policy at IISc, Bengaluru

Within three months of its inauguration, the Yellow Line reportedly witnessed at least three separate technical incidents, each resulting in delays of up to 45 minutes. However, BMRCL officials dismissed concerns that these were signs of deeper systemic problems. "The issues encountered on the Yellow Line were minor and unrelated to one another. They were not recurring faults in any particular train set," a senior BMRCL official said.

Ashish Verma, professor, Transportation Planning and Policy at IISc, Bengaluru, said the technical failures cannot be eliminated but can be managed effectively through robust maintenance practices and rapid response mechanisms which are follwed in developed economy.

"Transport agencies must have a well-defined stranded passenger Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to handle major service disruptions. One of the most effective measures is to establish a prearranged coordination mechanism with BMTC and other public transport operators so that alternative bus services can be deployed immediately when metro services are suspended. In cities such as Washington D.C., planned maintenance is often carried out during weekends, and transit agencies coordinate closely with bus operators to ensure commuters have reliable alternatives. A similar integrated approach would help minimise inconvenience to passengers and improve public confidence during disruptions," Mr. Verma added.

What BMRCL can do

- Establish a real-time incident response protocol for all metro disruptions
- Issue announcements inside trains, at stations, and on social media within minutes of detecting a fault
- Create an integrated command system linking BMRCL, BMTC, the traffic police and civic agencies
- Deploy emergency feeder buses immediately to affected stations
- Provide passengers with regular updates on restoration timelines
- Conduct periodic emergency response drills for operational staff

What causes metro snags

- Technical faults in trains and signalling systems
- Power supply interruptions
- Brake system failures and other operational glitches
- Overcrowding that prevents train doors from closing
- Tree branches or debris falling onto elevated tracks during heavy rain and strong winds
- Passengers entering or falling onto tracks

The incident has renewed attention on the operational challenges faced on the Yellow Line

Communication issues

While the technical fault itself caused inconvenience, many commuters argued that the larger problem was the lack of timely communication from the BMRCL.

Passengers said that there were no clear announcements inside trains or at stations for nearly 45 minutes after the disruption began. Social media updates were also delayed, resulting in large numbers of people continuing to enter metro stations unaware of the service suspension.

"There was so much poor communication. When I reached Indiranagar Metro Station, a security guard told me that train services had stopped because someone had attempted suicide at one of the stations. People were confused, and rumours started spreading," said Nayantara B., a commuter who was affected by the disruption.

BMRCL officials, however, said announcements regarding delayed services and loop train operations were made once operational teams confirmed the nature of the fault. Officials also pointed out that the corporation's public relations department subsequently issued media statements and updates.

Coordination gaps

The incident also exposed gaps in the coordination between government agencies tasked with managing public transport during emergencies.

According to sources in the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), the agency was informed about the disruption nearly an hour after the BMRCL first detected the fault. Although the BMTC later deployed more than 20 additional buses to Metro stations such as M.G. Road and Indiranagar, crowds continued to build up at several locations until late in the night.

Transport and mobility expert, M.N. Srihari, said that effective crisis management in a large city depends on seamless coordination between agencies. "When a major disruption occurs in a mass transit system, information must flow instantly between all transport agencies. Bengaluru needs an integrated incident-response protocol that enables metro, BMTC, traffic police, and civic authorities to respond as a single coordinated system like the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority," he said.

Purple Line services resume

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru's Namma Metro services on the Purple Line returned to normal early Wednesday following hours of disruption.

Regular operations resumed from 5 a.m. after a technical issue that had severely affected services the previous evening was successfully rectified, according to the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL).

The disruption began on the evening of Tuesday at the busy Cubbon Park Metro Station. The issue triggered widespread delays and confusion, particularly during peak hours, as commuters struggled to find alternative transport.

In a statement, BMRCL said that its Operations and Maintenance team had worked extensively to resolve the fault. During the disruption, train services were partially curtailed, with operations restricted between select stations. Services between Majestic and Indiranagar stations were suspended.

Devanahalli: Panel offers ₹2.70 crore per acre to farmers who voluntarily came forward to offer land

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Land Price Determination Advisory Committee has recommended a compensation of ₹2.70 crore per acre to the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) for 120 acres of land in two villages of Channarayapatna hobli in Devanahalli taluk, where landowners have voluntarily agreed to part with their land for industrial development.

This is said to be the highest compensation being proposed for farmland acquisition in the State.

This is said to be the highest compensation being proposed for farm land acquisition in the State. FILE PHOTO

The committee arrived at the decision at a joint meeting of officials and landowners held in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

This comes even as farmers' resistance to land acquisition for the Bidadi Township Project is picking up steam.

The State government had, on July 15, 2025, cancelled the forced acquisition of 1,777 acres of farm land spread over 13 villages of Channarayapatna hobli, Devanahalli taluk, for Phase-2 of the Aerospace Park after the farmers put up a stiff resistance by staging a dharna for 1,198 days. However, while shelving the land acquisition plan, the government stated that there was no bar on those who wanted to voluntarily give their land.

Accordingly, now, some farmers have offered to give their land voluntarily, following which the KIADB has initiated the process of acquisition.

KIADB Special Deputy Commissioner A.N. Raghunandan told farmers that the recommendation would now be placed before the KIADB Board for approval. He added that landowners who do not wish to receive monetary compensation would have the option of obtaining 10,781 square feet of developed land in the industrial area for every acre of agricultural land given by them.

He stated that the farmers had voluntarily consented to the acquisition of their land and that a final notification under the provisions of the KIADB Act had been issued on June 16 and published in the official gazette . He said the compensation recommended is the highest ever offered in the Devanahalli region and reflects the government's commitment to ensuring fair compensation for affected farmers.

Sources in the government said some farmers, who had opted for developed land instead of monetary compensation, in the Devanahalli area in the earlier land acquisition episodes, had seen a rapid increase in the prices of developed land now.

M.N. Anucheth posted as Information & Public Relations Commissioner

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

M.N. Anucheth

The Karnataka government on Wednesday transferred IPS officer M.N. Anucheth, appointing him as Deputy Inspector-General of Police (DIG) and Commissioner of the Department of Information and Public Relations, Bengaluru.

According to the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Mr. Anucheth, a 2009-batch Karnataka cadre IPS officer who was serving as DIG (Recruitment), has been posted to the new role in place of Hemant M. Nimbalkar, who has been transferred. The government has also entrusted Mr. Anucheth with the concurrent charge of Commissioner, Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, until further orders. He replaces Kumar T. H.M. in that position.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, JUN. 25		
RISE	05:56	SET 18:49
RISE	15:04	SET 02:02
FRIDAY, JUN. 26		
RISE	05:56	SET 18:49
RISE	15:55	SET 02:43
SATURDAY, JUN. 27		
RISE	05:56	SET 18:49
RISE	16:47	SET 03:27

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	29	22

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Spell of light rain and thundershower is a chance.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2026
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

At Kidwai, sound therapy offers moments of comfort beyond treatment

Doctors say the sound therapy at the palliative care ward is helping address the emotional and psychological challenges that often accompany serious illness

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Every Thursday, the palliative care ward at the State-run Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology is filled with sounds that drown the usual hospital din. Patients and their caregivers gather for an hour of what is called "sound therapy." Doctors said this initiative is helping address the emotional and psychological challenges that often accompany serious illness.

Sound healing is the use of sound, music and vibrations to help people relax and experience a sense of mental and emotional well-being. It involves the use of instruments such as chakra bowls, flute, veena, and gentle vocal sounds that produce specific sound frequencies to create soothing vibrations. When patients listen deeply, their minds often shift from a state of stress and overthinking to a state of calmness and relaxation.

Hear this: The Department of Pain and Palliative Medicine at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology introduced weekly sound therapy and yoga sessions for cancer patients. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

For 78-year-old Gulnaz Begum from Bengaluru, who is suffering from pancreatic carcinoma, the weekly sessions have become something to look forward to. "I feel more relaxed and peaceful after each session," she said.

In the male palliative care ward, 70-year-old Basappa R. from Raichur, battling Hepatocellular carcinoma, said the sessions provide a break from the anxieties associated with treatment. "The sessions help take my mind away from thoughts about my disease," he said.

The sessions are part of an initiative launched by the Department of Pain and Palliative Medicine at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology. Alongside weekly sound therapy sessions, the department has also introduced one hour yoga classes for patients and caregivers every Wednesday.

Yadhuraj M.K., head of the Department of Pain and Palliative Medicine, said palliative care extends beyond managing physical symptoms. "Patients with advanced cancer often experience anxiety, fear, loneliness and emotional distress. These interventions are intended to create a sense of comfort and well-being within the hospital environment," he said.

The sound therapy sessions are conducted by professional sound therapist Janakiraman, while the yoga sessions are led by yoga therapist Smitha M. The activities are held within the wards so that even patients with limited mobility can participate. .

The yoga sessions focus on gentle movements, breathing exercises, and relaxation techniques tailored to the needs of patients and caregivers.

"The objective is not physical exercise in the conventional sense. Through simple movements and breathing practices, the aim is to help participants relax, reduce stress and feel more at ease," Dr. Yadhuraj said.

Sound therapy can create a calming environment that helps patients momentarily shift their attention away from pain and anxiety.

"Many patients respond positively. The sessions offer an opportunity for relaxation and reflection, which can be valuable during treatment," he said.

Doctors said international research has increasingly highlighted the role of complementary therapies in improving the quality of life of people living with terminal illnesses.

Naveen T. , Kidwai Director (additional charge), said the initiative is to provide holistic care for patients.

"Cancer care is not limited to medicines and procedures alone. Addressing the emotional, psychological and social needs of patients is equally important. Programmes such as sound therapy and yoga complement medical treatment," he said.

Dr. Yadhuraj emphasised that the initiative is intended to supplement, not replace, clinical care.

"Medicines are important. But there are moments when a calming sound, a shared experience or a few minutes of relaxation can help. Those moments matter," he said.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath Chandrasekar (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Advertisement

Health

MUKH MANTRI SEHAT YOJANA & AAM AADMI CLINICS EMERGE AS PUNJAB'S HEALTH REVOLUTION CORNERSTONES

₹10 LAKH CASHLESS COVER PER FAMILY & 990 CLINICS WITH 5.62 CRORE VISITS TRANSFORM HEALTHCARE LANDSCAPE

CHIEF MINISTER BHAGWANT SINGH MANN REITERATES COMMITMENT TO UNIVERSAL HEALTH ACCESS TO ALL PUNJABIS

The Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana and the network of Aam Aadmi Clinics have emerged as the twin pillars of Punjab's health revolution under the Bhagwant Singh Mann-led government, building a seamless ecosystem from grassroots wellness to super-speciality care. The government has successfully transitioned Punjab to absolute Universal Health Coverage, ensuring comprehensive financial medical protection for all 3 crore residents.

A Historic Leap in Social Security:

The Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana offers cashless treatment of up to ₹10 lakh per family per year, with no income caps or exclusion criteria — giving every citizen, including government employees, identical elite-tier medical safeguards.

CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Our goal is to ensure that no family in Punjab has to choose between financial stability and life-saving treatment. The health revolution in the state is about dignity and access for every citizen."

The scheme covers over 2,000 clinical procedures, from cardiology and oncology to specialised surgeries. The administration has generated over 46 lakh health cards, enabling 386,240 treatments worth approximately ₹637.63 crore.

For Gurpinder Jeet Singh, a driver from Patiala, the scheme proved life-changing when his mother Baljit Kaur was diagnosed with uterine cancer. "In the first few weeks, we spent over ₹60,000. As a driver, arranging more money was difficult. I started thinking about loans and selling belongings," he said. After registering under the scheme, his mother underwent around 12 chemotherapy sessions and an eight-hour surgery - care that would otherwise have cost ₹8–10 lakh.

In another case, 98-year-old Mukhtiar Kaur received specialised cancer treatment, including chemotherapy-related care, fully covered under the Sehat Card - ensuring medical decisions were driven by need, not financial constraints.

Revolutionizing Primary Healthcare Complementing this safety net: The Government has established 990 Aam Aadmi Clinics - 414 urban and 576 rural - decentralising primary healthcare for vulnerable and marginalised communities.

These IT-based clinics provide 107 essential drugs and 47 diagnostic tests free of cost, with real-time reporting. They have recorded a total footfall of over 5.62 crore patients, averaging 84 patients per clinic daily - reaching about 83,000 patients every day. Over 3.43 crore diagnostic tests have been performed free of cost.

Services have expanded to include pregnancy care, malnourishment screening, dog bite treatment, family planning, hypertension, diabetes, and oral cancer care. Each month, over 35,000 pregnant women receive ante-natal care, while more than 1,15,000 people are treated for diabetes and hypertension.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann reiterated, "The expansion of the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana and the network of Aam Aadmi Clinics is a testament to our commitment to a 'Health Revolution' in Punjab. We are ensuring that from primary care to critical surgeries, the government stands with its people."

Women Empowerment

Maavan-Dheeyan Satkar Yojna

3 Months' 'Maavan Dheeyan Satkar Rashi' To Be Credited to Every Eligible Woman's Account on July 1: CM Bhagwant Singh Mann

Dalit Mothers & Sisters to receive ₹.4,500 While Women from All Other Categories Will get ₹. 3,000

Marking a historic step towards women's economic empowerment, Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann announced that the countdown for the Maavan Dheeyan Satkar Yojna has begun, with the first instalment of three months Satkar Rashi set to be credited directly into the bank accounts of eligible women on 1st July. Under the scheme, Dalit mothers and sisters will receive ₹4,500, while women from all other categories will get ₹3,000.

During a Lok Milni programme after inaugurating various development works in Village Chanarthal Kalan of Fatehgarh Sahib Constituency, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said the initiative reflects the State Government's commitment to ensuring dignity, financial security, and social empowerment for women, adding that the assistance will continue uninterrupted as long as Bhagwant Singh Mann led Punjab Government remains in Punjab.

On July 1, women beneficiaries above the age of 18 years will receive notifications on their mobile phones informing them about the financial assistance being credited to their accounts. Women belonging to the general category will receive ₹1,000 per month while Scheduled Caste women will receive ₹1,500 per month. The money will be transferred directly into their bank accounts without any middlemen. Women who are already receiving social security pensions will also be eligible under the scheme. Nearly 97% women in Punjab are expected to benefit from this initiative and the Punjab Government has made a budgetary provision of ₹9,300 crore for it.

The Chief Minister stated, "This financial assistance may not make women rich, but it will certainly give them dignity, self-respect and confidence. Women deserve the highest respect because they are the source of life itself. The blessings of mothers and sisters help overcome every challenge in the world. Strengthening women's financial autonomy is essential for improving household welfare, promoting gender equity and enhancing women's participation in social and economic decision-making. When women become financially empowered, families prosper and society moves forward."

Jobs

Punjab Hands Out 523 More Health Department Jobs, Crosses 67,500 Recruitment Mark

Govt Jobs had become Dream for Youth Under Previous Govts as Money, Not Merit, was deciding factor: CM Bhagwant Singh Mann

Handing over appointment letters to 523 youths in the Health Department on June 16, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann said his government has ended the era when government jobs were sold through money and political influence, depriving deserving candidates of opportunities.

Citing the creation of 67,563 government jobs in four years through a transparent, merit-based process. Chief Minister said the state has restored faith in public recruitment and reversed the trend of youth leaving Punjab for employment elsewhere. He contrasted this record with examination controversies seen in other states.

"It is a matter of immense pride that more than 67,500 government jobs have been provided to youth across the state. The era of cash payments and favouritism has ended," said CM adding that not even a single appointment made by our Government has been challenged in court. The faith of youth in the recruitment process has been restored.

Since taking office in 2022, the Punjab Government has made appointments across multiple departments: School Education (16,316), Home Affairs (14,723), Power (8,306), Local Government (5,681), Health and Family Welfare (4,235), Revenue, Rehabilitation and Disaster Management (2,355), Medical Education and Research (2,143), and Water Resources (2,168).

The latest drive added 523 appointments in Health and Family Welfare alone.

The Chief Minister emphasized that for decades, deserving youth were deprived of opportunities because jobs were distributed through recommendations and influence — a system he says has been completely eradicated. Appointments are now made purely on merit and eligibility, he said, ensuring every candidate knows hard work and talent are sufficient to secure a government job.

The government has framed the recruitment drive as part of a broader push toward transparent governance, running alongside expanded healthcare and public welfare initiatives across the state.

Sports

Punjab's Sporting Revolution: "Khed-da Punjab, Badalda Punjab"

PUNJAB ALL SET TO REGAIN PRISTINE GLORY IN SPORTS, HARMANPREET SINGH, HARMANPREET KAUR, HARLEEN DEOL TERM AS UNPRECEDENTED THE HONOURS BESTOWED

Under Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann's leadership, Punjab's sports sector has undergone a sweeping

transformation through the "Khed-da Punjab, Badalda Punjab" initiative, gaining global recognition.

A key milestone was the felicitation of 87 legendary players with the Maharaja Ranjit Singh Award, including hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh, alongside 1,070 medal-winning athletes-among them women cricket captain Harmanpreet Kaur and Harleen Deol - who together received ₹32.05 crore in prize money.

Massive Budget and Infrastructure Push:

The sports budget has been raised to an all-time high of ₹1,791 crore for 2026–27, a dramatic jump from just ₹350 crore in 2023–24. The coaching pool is being expanded from 500 to 2,458 positions, with 324 elite coaches — including 48 international and national award-winning athletes — already recruited. Of 3,100 planned sports grounds, construction is underway at 2,700 locations, targeted for completion by June 2026.

CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said sports run deep in Punjab's heritage, noting that Guru Sahiban promoted physical fitness alongside spirituality, and that the government is simply "giving wings" to this spirit.

Punjab Athletes Leading National Teams:

Punjab's sporting dominance is reflected in its athletes captaining national squads: Harmanpreet Singh led India's hockey team and was the 2024 Paris Olympics' top scorer with 10 goals; Shubman Gill captains the Men's Cricket Team; Harmanpreet Kaur led the Women's Cricket Team to ODI World Cup glory, featuring Punjab stars Amanjot Kaur and Harleen Deol; Palpreet Singh Brar captains the basketball team; and Gurpreet Singh Sandhu has captained the football team.

In a historic first, Punjab will host the Asian Champions Trophy Hockey tournament 2026 in October 2026, with matches at Mohali's Balbir Singh Senior Hockey Stadium and Jalandhar's Surjit Hockey Stadium.

Financial Support and Grassroots Growth:

A 2023 Sports Policy introduced advance cash grants — ₹15 lakh for Olympic preparation and ₹8 lakh for Asian/Commonwealth Games preparation — contributing to Punjab winning a record 20 medals at the 2023 Asian Games. Paris Olympic bronze medallists and Asian Games gold medallists each received ₹1 crore, while nine Olympic medallists were given government jobs as PCS and DSP officers. Nearly ₹100 crore in prize money has been

disbursed over four years, extended for the first time to Punjabi athletes representing the armed forces.

Athlete nutrition support has doubled, from ₹240 to ₹480 daily, alongside a new Nutrition-Based Menu across 13 Centres of Excellence. The grassroots tournament "Kheda Watan Punjab Diya" has grown from 1.5 lakh participants in 2022–23 to 5 lakh in 2024–25, spanning age groups from under-14 to over 60, including Para-Sports.

Preserving Rural Sporting Traditions:

The Punjab Assembly unanimously passed the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Punjab Amendment) Bill-2025 on July 11, 2025, reviving Bull-Cart Racing and other heritage sports at the Kila Raipur Games. Punjab also became the first state to establish a dedicated Sports Medicine Cadre, and launched a single-window Sports Portal for registration, gradation, and record verification.

YUDH NASHIAN VIRUDH

Punjab Police Score Major Wins in War Against Drugs and Organised Crime

YUDH NASHIAN VIRUDH: 48,428 NDPS FIRs, 63,626 ARRESTS, 3064 KG HEROIN SEIZED SINCE MARCH 1, 2025

89,594 RAIDS CONDUCTED UNDER "GANGSTRAN TE VAAR"; 36,381 HELD SINCE JANUARY 20, 2026

Acting on directions from Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Punjab Police have achieved significant success through two flagship campaigns — "Yudh Nashian Virudh" and "Gangstran Te Vaar" — aimed at dismantling the narcotics trade and neutralising gangster networks across the state.

Yudh Nashian Virudh: Targeting the Drug Trade

Launched on March 1, 2025, the anti-drug campaign combines strict enforcement, community involvement, and preventive education. "The war against drugs is not just a police operation; it is a fight for the future of our youth and the soul of Punjab," CM said, vowing that the crackdown would continue until every peddler and smuggler is brought to justice.

Since its launch, police have registered 48,428 FIRs under the NDPS Act and arrested 63,626 accused, including 3,646 linked to commercial-quantity cases. The operation has netted 3,631 drug suppliers and 579 "big fish."

Major recoveries include 3,064 kg of heroin, 38 tons of poppy husk, 810 kg of opium, 968 kg of ganja, 90 kg of charas, 5 kg of cocaine, 59 kg of ICE, and 55 lakh intoxicating tablets. Targeting cross-border smuggling, police recovered 403 drones and intercepted 527 kg of heroin delivered via drones.

The financial backbone of drug networks has also been hit hard.` ₹22 crore in drug money was recovered, 96 major hawala operators were arrested, and illegal properties worth ₹327 crore belonging to 822 drug smugglers were frozen.

Of 10,696 cases decided so far, 9,509 ended in conviction — an 89% conviction rate, the highest in the country. On the rehabilitation side, 10,463 people caught with small quantities were referred to de-addiction programs, while 37,362 addicts were admitted to de-addiction centres and 1,15,161 to OOAT centres for treatment.

Gangstran Te Vaar: Cracking Down on Organised Crime.

Launched January 20, 2026, this intelligence-led operation targets gangster syndicates through inter-state coordination, financial disruption, and technology-driven policing. "Punjab will not be a safe haven for gangsters and criminals," CM Mann said, stressing that police are working to ensure law-abiding citizens feel secure.

Since its launch, police have conducted 89,594 raids and arrested 36,381 people, including 674 gang associates and 35,707 wanted individuals, while bringing 1,196 proclaimed offenders to justice. The campaign has also led to the recovery of 677 firearms, 184 sharp-edged weapons, 1,846 rounds of ammunition, and 12 hand grenades.

A Coordinated Crackdown:

Together, the two campaigns have delivered record-breaking seizures, arrests, and convictions while systematically targeting the financial infrastructure that sustains organised crime. Officials say the dual approach — combining aggressive enforcement with rehabilitation efforts — reflects the state's broader push toward becoming a safer, drug-free Punjab.

EDUCATION

Punjab's "Shikhya Kranti": A Government School Revolution

Bhagwant Singh Mann led State Government overhauls school system: fee cap, direct books & students shine in national level competitive exams

Punjab's government school system has undergone a dramatic transformation under Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann's "Shikhya Kranti" (Education Revolution), turning once-neglected institutions into competitive, outcome-driven schools delivering some of the best results in the country.

Rising Investment, Rising Results

The state's education budget has grown substantially, from ₹12,657 crore in 2021–22 to ₹19,279 crore in 2026–27, underlining the government's sustained focus on the sector. That investment appears to be paying off: NITI Aayog's 2026 Education Quality Report placed Punjab ahead of Kerala — long regarded as India's benchmark for school education — on key foundational learning metrics. Punjab posted 82% proficiency in language and 78% in mathematics for Class 3, compared to Kerala's 75% and 70%. In Class 9 mathematics, Punjab scored 52% against Kerala's 45%.

Punjab also topped the Centre's Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0 for 2024–25, achieving the Prachesta-1 Grade — a distinction shared only with Chandigarh — and surpassing Kerala, Delhi, Maharashtra, and Himachal Pradesh. The state ranked first nationally in the Learning Outcomes & Quality domain, scoring 150.4.

Other indicators reflect this shift: 99.9% of government schools now have electricity, 99% have functional computers, and over 80% feature smart classrooms. More than 90% of Class 10 students now move on to Class 11, pointing to falling dropout rates, while the student-teacher ratio has improved to 22:1.

Schools of Eminence and Expanded Access

A second phase of the Education Revolution, backed by ₹3,500 crore, is being called the largest education reform program in the state's history. Central to this push are 118 Schools of Eminence, designed to let talented students pursue education suited to their abilities. Free bus services for girls attending these schools and other government institutions now benefit around 15,500 students, ensuring transport is not a barrier to education.

Since April 2022, the state has recruited 14,525 teachers and regularised the jobs of 12,316 education department employees. Schools have also been staffed with 1,932 campus managers, 1,323 security guards, 7,876 sanitation workers, and 1,792 watchmen to improve maintenance and safety. Punjab is the only state to provide high-speed fiber Wi-Fi across all government schools, which is a ₹20 crore initiative.

Global Training, Local Impact

Teacher and principal training has taken on an international dimension. Eight batches comprising 264 officers, principals, and teachers have trained in Singapore; four batches of 288 primary teachers studied at the University of Turku in Finland; and five batches sent 243 headmasters to IIM Ahmedabad for leadership training.

Infrastructure upgrades — including science labs, computer labs, kitchens, medical rooms, and separate toilets for boys and girls — have brought many government schools at par with private institutions, giving parents genuine choice. The Business Blaster scheme, meanwhile, has encouraged entrepreneurial thinking among students, who have collectively generated ₹70 crore through their own ventures. Punjab also became the first state to introduce Entrepreneurship as a Class 11 subject.

Stories of Aspiration

Behind the statistics are individual stories of perseverance. Priya Bhardwaj, a student at the School of Eminence in Bhagpur Sataur, Hoshiarpur, was raised by her single mother on an annual income of ₹1.44 lakh after her father's death. She cleared JEE Advanced with support from the government's coaching ecosystem and hopes to become an engineer in her late father's memory. Prabhjot Singh, from the School of Eminence in Mullanpur, SAS Nagar, comes from a family where his father works as a labourer; he too cleared JEE Advanced, crediting academic support from teachers and his school's encouragement.

Policy Reforms

The state has also moved on systematic reforms. Following feedback at the "Sitare Zameen Te" felicitation event on May 31, 2026, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann ordered the Punjab School Education Board to scrap its date-of-birth tie-breaker rule, ensuring students with identical marks receive the same rank.

Additionally, the government is drafting legislation to curb arbitrary fee hikes by private schools, aiming to protect over 32 lakh students and their families. The proposed law would cap annual fee increases at 5% and require schools that raised fees beyond 15% over three years to refund the excess to parents — part of a broader push to reshape how school education is delivered across the state.

State government recommends MSP for Totapuri mangoes

The proposal has been sent to the Union government, and once the Centre approved the MSP, an official circular will be issued

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following a bandh and protest in Srinivaspura, Malur, Kolar and surrounding areas by mango growing farmers on Monday, the Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation Limited (KSMDMCL) and Deputy Commissioner of Kolar District have written to the State government proposing to provide a Minimum Support Price (MSP) to Totapuri mangoes.

This proposal has also been sent to the Union government on Tuesday. Once the Centre approves the MSP, an official circular will be issued by the State government.

Vedamurthy R.T., Managing Director, KSMDMCL, explained, "Keeping in mind the loss to farmers who have grown Totapuri mangoes this year, we have recommended MSP only for this variety and have sent a proposal to the State government. As per Karnataka Agriculture Price Commission (KAPC), the cost of cultivation of one kg Totapuri is ₹39. On this basis, we have submitted a recommendation to the State government to decide the MSP. The State government has recommended ₹17.50 per kg as cost of cultivation. The officials have recommended ₹4.37 per kg as MSP. Now, it is left to the Union government."

S.R. Kumaraswamy, Deputy Director, Horticulture Department, Kolar district, said

Officials are expecting that the Union government will give the MSP expected by the farmers, which is ₹8,000 to ₹10,000 per tonne. FILE PHOTO

"We are expecting that the Union government gives the MSP expected by the farmers, which is ₹8,000 to ₹10,000 per tonne."

Neelatur Chinnappa Reddy, president, District Mango Growers' Welfare Association, said, "If they give us the demanded price, we can survive. Or else, farmers will be under complete loss. Last year, Totapuri was sold for ₹2 per kg and farmers earned ₹2,000 per tonne."

He added, "Srinivaspura, Kolar, and Malur are known for growing Totapuri mangoes. This year, due to climate extremities like extreme heat and abrupt hailstorms, we lost a large amount of crop. We have spent lakhs to grow mangoes. If the State and Union government fail to provide us the MSP in a day or two, we will continue our protest again."

Explaining the reason why Totapuri sells for a lower price every year, Mr. Vedamurthy said, "It is a late variety that arrives in the market after all the other varieties have arrived and sold. People prefer consuming mango varieties that are sweeter and juicy. Such varieties arrive in mid April and May. Totapuri is one of the few varieties that goes for mango pulp and juice. The private factories quote lower prices and buy them from farmers."

Other mango varieties

Meanwhile, the price for other mango varieties are neither too low nor too high in the wholesale and retail markets. Badami Alphonso costs ₹80 per kg in wholesale market. Similarly, Mallika, Banganapalle, Kalapahad, Raspuri, Sindhura, Imam Pasand, and others, the price is between ₹15 to ₹20 per kg.

Venkat Lakshmamma, a mango farmer from Srinivasapura, said, "Every year, we undergo huge amount of loss growing Totapuri. In retail, it sells for ₹30 per kg and not more. As soon as I harvested the mangoes this year, I have brought them to Bengaluru to sell them in retail markets on pushcarts as well as at the Mango Mela in Lalbagh. Though, I don't earn huge profits, at least I can get the money that I have invested."

Another farmer, Syed Ashfaq from Noolapura village in Kolar district, said, "I grow three varieties of mangoes so that I can earn good returns even if I incur loss on Totapuri. I have been able to sell Badami Alphonso for ₹150 to ₹200 per kg, Kaalapahad for ₹70 per kg, but I doubt if I can sell Totapuri variety. The last option to sell Totapuri is in APMC mandi where traders quote as low as ₹2 per kg. Sometimes, I sell to private factories who buy it for ₹3 to ₹4 per kg to make pulp and juice out of Totapuri."

HDK urges Union Agri Minister to assist mango farmers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the protest by mango farmers, Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy met Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at his residence in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Market intervention

Mr. Kumaraswamy urged Mr. Chouhan to extend assistance to farmers under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) to mitigate the impact of the prevailing price crash and to provide price support through the Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS).

Hardships

He apprised the Union Agriculture Minister of the hardships faced by mango growers in districts such as Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru Rural, Tumakuru, and Haveri, among others.

In response, Mr. Chouhan assured that an expeditious decision would be taken in the interest of mango growers. Support measures would be announced at the earliest, said a release.

Kodagu residents propose buyback of land purchased by spiritual guru near Malma Hill

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Kodagu residents opposing the alleged commercial activities near the Malma Hill in Nelaji village have received support from the Akhila Kodava Samaja (AKS), a community organisation, which has proposed exploring the possibility of buying back the land through community contributions or negotiations with the present purchaser in an effort to preserve the area's ecological, cultural, and religious significance.

The proposal comes amid an ongoing controversy surrounding the sale of over 71 acres of land in Nelaji village, an area near the eco-sensitive Malma Hill and the Nelaji Igguthappa Temple.

AKS president Paradanda Subramani Kaverappa said approximately 71.60 acres of land had been sold through registered deeds earlier this year. He noted that the transactions appeared to have been carried out legally and that ownership had already been transferred in the revenue records.

Sacred landscape

However, Mr. Kaverappa said the sale had generated widespread concern among villagers and members of the Kodava community as the land forms part of a sacred landscape closely linked to temple traditions, rituals, and the spiritual heritage of the region.

Residents have also expressed fears that any non-agricultural activities in the area could adversely affect the ecology of the region.

For the past several days, villagers have been opposing what they describe as attempts to introduce commercial activities near Malma Hill.

As part of its proposed solution, the AKS stated that it would be willing to engage with the purchaser and explain the cultural and spiritual significance of the land.

The organisation also suggested exploring the possibility of acquiring the property for the community through negotiations and voluntary contributions from the Kodava community.

Meanwhile, spiritual guru Sri M, also known as Mumtaz Ali, who purchased the land, has responded to the AKS statement. In a letter dated June 20, addressed to the AKS president and accessed by *The Hindu*, Sri M stated that he had already withdrawn all proposed commercial activities on the land he had purchased.

He has also issued a separate public statement announcing that he was abandoning all construction plans on the property.

MADURAI CORPORATION
RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Madurai Corporation invites two cover bids from eligible contractors for the below mentioned works
Funded under KfW (SMIF-TN-III), CGF and Corporation Fund 2025-26

Name of Work	Bid Submission Date	Bid Opening Date
E1 / EST 001057 / 2026 (2nd Call) Execution of River Front Development works on the Northen side and Southern side bank of Vaigai River in Madurai Corporation Tender Put Value - Rs.79.26 Cr (Incl. GST)	25.06.2026 To 28.07.2026 3.00pm	28.07.2026 4.00pm
Pre-Bid Meeting Date And Time : 08.07.2026 , 3.00 PM		

Other Details can be found at http://www.tntenders.gov.in Website
Contact No: 0452-25403332 DIPR/2125/DISPLAY/2026
COMMISSIONER
MADURAI CORPORATION

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder
Call our toll-free number 1800 102 1878
Or write to us at customercare@thehindu.co.in
Scan the QR code to register your feedback
THE HINDU thehindubusinessline. FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR Young World THE HINDU

KARNATAKA CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LIMITED
KMF Complex, Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bengaluru-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625, 25536789 E-mail: kmfengg@gmail.com
IFT No: KMF/ENGG/ NHMPP- Motor Rewinding /02359/2026-27 Date: 24-06-2026
SHORT TERM - TENDER NOTIFICATION (Call-2)
[Two cover System] [Through KPP Portal only]
Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender through KPPP Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested elgible firms may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD (Rs.)	Period of Completion
1	Biannual Rate Contract for Rewinding Works of Various Capacity Burnt-out Motors at Nandini Hitech Mega Powder Plant Ramanagar.	1 Job	50,000/-	2 years

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: **25-06-2026 to 02-07-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 2.** Last date for Tender submission on date: **02-07-2026 up to 4.00 PM. 3.** Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: **03-07-2026 at 4:30 PM.**
Hence forth changes / modification in the tender, It will be uploaded on KPPP portal only.
For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

KSSIDC KARNATAKA STATE SMALL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, Administrative Office Building, Industrial Estate, Rajajinagar Bengaluru 560 010, Karnataka, India. Telephone: 080-23407011-25, Fax No.080-23389526, E-mail :agmca.kssidc@karnataka.gov.in Website :www.kssidc.kar.nic.in
Ref. No. KSSIDC/FIN/FD/E-Bidding/2026 Date:24.06.2026
E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)
Karnataka State Small Industries Development Corporation (KSSIDC), intends to invest its Surplus Funds in the long term deposits with Nationalized / Public Sector Banks. The details of the quantum of amount and period to be kept in long term deposits are as under:

Sl.No.	Amount	Period	Description
1	Rs.50.00 Crores	For One Year (365 days)	Callable
2	Rs.200.00 Crores	For One Year (365 days)	Non- Callable
Total Rs.250.00 Crores			

The complete details of the E-Auction can be downloaded from the e-portal of the Government of Karnataka at the below address: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Schedule of various Events for e-Auction is as below:

Sl.No.	Particulars	Dates
1	Date of e-Auction can be Downloaded	From 25.06.2026 Time.11.00 Hrs
2	Last Date to upload the Declaration in Annexure-B in the e-portal	06.07.2026 before 16.30 Hrs.
3	Live Bidding	08.07.2026 Commences at 12.30 Hrs. & Concludes at 14.30 Hrs.

DIPR/CP/JA/1326/2026-27
Sd/-
Managing Director

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020
No.: BDA/EE(East)/TEN/317/2026-27 Date: 23.06.2026
CORRIGENDUM NOTIFICATION
Improvement and Development of Roads, Drains and Culverts in Anekal Taluk, BDA Plan Area (Package 02). In the notification issued on 09.06.2026 for the said work, the technical bid opening was scheduled for 27.06.2026. However, due to unavoidable reasons, the technical bid for the said work has been **rescheduled and will be opened at 4:30 PM on 29.06.2026.** There are no other changes in the tender, and all other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.
Helpline/Whatsapp: 94831 66622 (24 x 7). @BDAOfficialGoK
Sd/- Executive Engineer, East Division, BDA, Bengaluru.

TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL)
(A Government of Gujarat undertaking)
Udyog Bhavan, Block No. 16, 4th Floor, Sector - 11, Gandhinagar - 382 011
Website: https://www.gujarattourism.com
TENDER NOTICE
Bids are invited from reputed and experienced agencies for **"Infrastructure Assessment for Destination Wedding Tourism Development in Gujarat".**
The project requirements, technical specifications, eligibility criteria, selection process, etc. are included in the Tender documents, which shall be available for download from the websites: **https://tender.nprocure.com/**. and **https://www.gujarattourism.com** from 25/06/2026 onwards.
The last date for submission of the **Technical and Financial Bid (online only) is 16/07/2026 up to 6:00 pm. and Technical Bid (physical only) is 18/07/2026 up to 3:00 pm.**
Managing Director

PM SHRI केन्द्रीय विद्यालय, मंड्या-५७१४०२
PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA MANDYA - 571402
Offline Admission Notice
PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya, Mandya, has a few vacant seats available in Classes II & V(ST/SC), VII, VIII, and IX for the academic session 2026–27.
Interested parents may obtain the registration form from the school office or download it from the school website. The duly filled registration form, along with all required documents, should be submitted to the school office on or before 5:00 PM on 29 June 2026.
For further details, please refer to the school notice board or the school website https://mandya.kvs.ac.in/
Principal

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
Metro Rail Depot, Old Madras Road, Near NGEF Bus Stop, Baiyappanahalli, Bengaluru-560 038 Ph:080-25191039
e-Mail: contactus@bmrc.co.in Website: www.bmrc.co.in
Bid No. BMRCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT148 Date: 23.06.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
BMRCL invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for **"Maintenance Contract for Artificer Works (Petty Repairs) at Baiyappanahalli (BYPH), Swami Vivekananda Road (SVRD), Indiranagar (IDN), Halasuru(HLRU), Trinity (TTY) and Mahatma Gandhi Road (MAGR) Stations in Reach-1 of Line-1".** The works details can be obtained from the e-procurement website. The Tender documents can be obtained and submitted **on or before 21.07.2026 up to 15:00 hrs.** Further details can be obtained from website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or** contact this office during office working Hours.
Sd/- Executive Director (O&M)

READ FRONTLINE
LEADING THE DEBATE SINCE 1984
EVERY FORTNIGHT.
TO SUBSCRIBE, VISIT
www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients are desirous of purchasing the vacant site the property morefully descried in the schedule below and hereinafter referred to as Schedule Property, from **Mr. S R Janardhan**, aged about 64 years, S/o. Mr. S M Radhakrishna Setty, Residing at No. 92, 15th Cross, 6th Main Road, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560 055 (Owner).
Any person or persons having any claim of whatsoever kind, with regard to the Schedule Property or any portion thereof or against the Owner, may write to the undersigned within fifteen (15) days from the date of issuance of this notice with documentary evidence on which they are basing their claims with regard to the schedule property or any part thereof in any manner whatsoever, failing which may client shall proceed on that basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that portion of land in vacant **Site No. 127**, measuring East to West: 30 (Thirty) Feet, and North to South: 40 (Forty) Feet, totally ad-measuring **1200** Square Feet, formed in **Survey No.1**, situated at 9th Main, Nandini Layout, 4th Block, **Jarakabande Kaval Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk**, Bangalore District-560096, **BBMP PID No.12-84-127/54 & EPID No. 3949078046**, New Ward No. 43 (Old Ward No.12), Nandini Layout Ward, Bangalore and bounded on the:
East by : Road;
West by : Site No. 126;
North by : Site No. 93; and
South by : Road.
Sadhik, Advocate,
Date: 24.06.2026 **No.130/1, Ulsoor Road,**
Place: Bangalore. **Bangalore – 560 042.**

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are hereby informed that my clients have negotiated with Mr. N.KRISHNA RAJU, aged about 75 years, S/o. late B.N. Narayana Raju, R/at No.19/6, 6th Cross, 15th A Main Road, behind Allanse College, NS Palya, Bilekahalli, BTM Layout, Bilekahalli, Bengaluru-560076, [Adhaar No. 737785075803] to purchase the Schedule Property, which is more fully described in the Schedule given herein below. Any persons claiming with regard to the Schedule Property or any part thereof should write to the undersigned within 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this Public Notice with Documentary Proof on which they have based their claim, failing which, it is deemed that there is no impediment to complete the document of my clients and will proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that Piece and Parcel of Agricultural Property bearing Sy.No.165, measuring 39 (thirty nine) guntas, Situated at Besthamana halli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District, duly Muted vide No.MR H5/2022-23, and with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface. and bounded on
East by: Road,
West by: Land of Neeraganti Kencha,
North by: Thatnahalli Boundry, and
South by: Land belongs to medihalli Muniyappa.
[H.S.NAVEED ALAM]
ADVOCATE
Dr. Alam's Estate Shanthi Layout
Ramamurthy Nagar
Bengaluru-560016.
Date: 23-06-2026.
Bengaluru,

MAHANAGARA PALIKE, KALABURAGI
Ph.: 08472/ 278675, Fax: 08472/ 260776, E-mail : itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com
No: KMP/TS-01/KKRDB Garden/01/2026-27 DATE: 23/06/2026
Corrigendum/Extension Notification
Sub: Postponement of Submission of tender in KPPP Portal-2.00 (02) Works, Tender With Indent No: 1) 56449/CALL-2 & 2) 56444/CALL-2
Ref:-KMP/TS-01/KKRDB Garden/01/2026-27 DATE: 12/06/2026
With respect to the above cited subject and Reference, the works published vide Notification No: KMP/TS-01/KKRDB Garden/01/2026-27 Date: 12/06/2026 Total 02 numbers of Works under 2024-25 & 2025-26 KKRDB Macro Funds, the calendars of events have been postponed as below.

1	Last date of submission of Tender **22.06.2026** upto 11.00 Am	1	Last date of submission of Tender Postponed to **29.06.2026** upto 11:00 Am
2	Date and Time of Prequalification Bid **29.06.2026** upto 04.30 Pm	2	Date and Time of Prequalification Bid Postponed to **07.07.2026** at 04:30 Pm
3	Last date of opening of Technical bid of Tender **30.06.2026** upto 04.35 Pm	3	Last date of opening of Technical bid of Tender Postponed to **08.07.2026** upto 04:35 Pm
4	Last date of opening of Financial bid of Tender **01.07.2026** upto 11.30 Am	4	Last date of opening of Financial bid of Tender Postponed to **09.07.2026** upto 11:30 Am

DIPR/Kalaburagi/242/KSMC&A/2026-27
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi.

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/30-2026-27
Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM Two Bid system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs) / Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0625/0626 RFx 7000040411 (3rd Call) (Two Bid System) for Selection of Solar Power Developers for setting up of 15 MW Grid-Connected Rooftop Solar PV Projects under RESCO Mode at various EHV Substations and Admin Buildings of MSETCL across Maharashtra.	Rs.25459.20 Lakhs / Rs. 25,000/-	15.07.2026 17:00 Hrs / 15.07.2026 17.15 Hrs

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (VI)
CPA, C.O. MSETCL, 1st Floor, Prakashgad Building, Bandra (E), Mumbai
Tel. No.: 022-69852717
Email id: cecpa@mahatransco.in, secpa@mahatransco.in, eegrp6@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in, dyeegrp6@mahatransco.in
For further details visit our website **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in/**
Any further amendments/clarifications will be published on the MSETCL website **www.mahatransco.in** & **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in/**
Bidders are therefore requested to check these websites for further updates.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

A BG-BGE

Triple murder case: Accused-daughter arrested

Efforts under way to trace her boyfriend Kenneth, who is suspected to be involved in the crime

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The K.R. Puram police have arrested 24-year-old Shwetha, accused of murdering her parents and younger sister after they allegedly opposed to her live-in relationship with her boyfriend.

She was nabbed at a railway station in Puducherry by a special team tracking her movements. Efforts are under way to trace and arrest her boyfriend Kenneth, who is also suspected to be involved in the crime.

The accused was nabbed at a railway station in Puducherry by a special team tracking her movements. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The triple murder took place at an apartment in Sigehalli under the jurisdiction of the K.R. Puram Police Station. The victims were identified as Somesundar, 55, a software engineer, his wife Muthulakshmi, 48, and their younger daughter Supriya, 20.

The police had formed six special teams to track down Shwetha and Kenneth, who had been on the run since allegedly committing the murders.

The police, while conducting a mahazar at the crime scene, recovered a diary allegedly maintained by Shwetha. The entries reportedly contained phrases suggesting that she was under stress.

The probe revealed that Shwetha and Kenneth met while pursuing their B.Tech at a private engineering college, and later entered into a live-in relationship. They reportedly quit their jobs and planned to start a business venture.

The police said the duo had allegedly availed themselves of a loan of around ₹30 lakh from a private bank in the names of Shwetha's parents. The parents reportedly came to know of the loan only after receiving notices from the bank over repayment defaults. This reportedly enraged Somasundar, who visited her flat and confronted her.

The police suspect that tensions over the relationship and financial issues led to a heated argument on Monday evening. During the confrontation, the accused allegedly attacked her family members with a knife, stabbing them multiple times. Muthulakshmi and Supriya died inside the apartment. Despite sustaining grievous injuries, Somasundar reportedly managed to run out of the flat and collapsed on the apartment staircase. He was rushed to the hospital but succumbed to injuries.

After the attack, Shwetha and Kenneth allegedly fled the scene. Their exit was captured by one of the CCTV cameras. The accused will be produced before a court and taken into custody for further investigation to ascertain the exact motive behind the triple murder.

Meanwhile, teams continue to search for Kenneth, whose testimony is expected to play a crucial role in establishing the full sequence of events behind the gruesome murders.

Kenneth's role under the scanner

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

According to the arrested accused Shwetha's statement, her boyfriend Kenneth was allegedly inside a room wearing headphones and was not directly involved when Muthulakshmi was attacked. She reportedly claimed that Kenneth came out only after the murder and helped her clean the apartment and move the body into a bathroom.

However, the police suspect she is misleading investigators to derail the probe.

In his alleged dying declaration, Somasundar reportedly told the police that Kenneth had also stabbed him during the attack.

The police believe Kenneth's arrest will be crucial in establishing the exact sequence of events and determining whether he was merely an accomplice after the crime or an active participant in the murders. After the killings, the accused allegedly walked out of the apartment and used a scooter to flee.

However, the scooter reportedly broke down, following which Kenneth allegedly asked Shwetha to board a bus alone.

'Killed them because they controlled me'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

During preliminary questioning, Shwetha reportedly told investigators that she killed her mother, Muthulakshmi, because she believed her mother had controlled every aspect of her life. The accused claimed she was never allowed to live independently and blamed her for depriving her of peace of mind. "Whatever I did was wrong in her eyes. They took away my freedom and made me feel like an orphan despite having a family," Shwetha reportedly told the police.

Police sources said Shwetha has claimed that she alone murdered her mother and later attacked her father and younger sister, while her boyfriend allegedly helped her clear the crime scene.

The police suspect the murders were premeditated. According to the investigation, Shwetha had called her mother, Muthulakshmi, and younger sister, Supriya, to her apartment a day before the killings.

The mother and daughter reportedly spent the day there, while Supriya returned to the family home in Nallurahalli, Varthur, later that evening.

The following day, when family members were unable to contact either Muthulakshmi or Shwetha, Somasundar and Supriya went to the apartment. The police believe Muthulakshmi had already been murdered by then. When Somasundar and Supriya questioned Shwetha about Muthulakshmi's whereabouts, the accused allegedly lured them inside and attacked them with a knife.

U.P. youth arrested in Davangere for 'online radicalisation links'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 20-year-old man from Uttar Pradesh has been arrested by the Davangere Police on the suspicion that he was in contact with foreign handlers involved in online radicalisation activities, prompting an investigation of possible terror-related links.

The 20-year-old accused, identified as Suhail, arrived in Harihar about 15 days ago in search of work.

He got a job as a painter at a private factory and was staying in a rented house within the jurisdiction of the Harihar Rural Police.

Addressing the media on Tuesday, Davangere Superintendent of Police Shekhar H.T. said that the arrest was made following intelligence inputs received by the local police.

According to the police, Harihar Rural Sub-Inspector of Police noticed suspicious behaviour while on patrol and questioned the youth.

His inability to provide satisfactory answers led officers to conduct a detailed verification of his background and digital activities.

"Upon inquiry, he could not answer the questions raised by our Sub-Inspector. When we checked his antecedents and mobile phone, we found that he was in touch with certain foreign entities regarding terror-related activities through social media platforms," Mr. Shekhar said.

A preliminary examination of the suspect's mobile phone revealed participation in online radicalisation groups operating through social media and messaging applications.

Based on the findings, the police registered a case and arrested him.

'Techies' dupe nationalised bank of ₹30 lakh with forged salary slips

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two men posing as techies in reputed companies allegedly cheated a nationalised bank by obtaining loans using forged salary slips, fake bank statements, and fabricated employment records two years ago. The fraud came to light nearly two years after the loans were sanctioned when the borrowers defaulted on repayments.

The fraud came to light nearly two years after the loans were sanctioned when the borrowers defaulted on repayment.

According to complaints filed by an assistant manager of the nationalised bank's Air Cargo Complex branch at Kempegowda International Airport, the accused had approached the bank claiming to be employed with reputed private companies and submitted forged documents to establish their creditworthiness.

In the first case, an accused claimed to be employed with a leading tech company, drawing a monthly salary of ₹1,01,541.

To support his claim, he allegedly furnished salary slips for July and August 2023 along with purported bank account statements. Based on the documents submitted, the bank sanctioned a loan of ₹15 lakh on January 30, 2024.

In the second case, another accused claimed to be working for another leading tech company and earning a monthly salary of ₹1,09,974. He allegedly submitted salary slips covering the period from August 14, 2023, to February 8, 2024, along with bank statements and other supporting documents. Based on these records, he too obtained a loan of ₹15 lakh from the bank on February 22, 2024.

The fraud remained undetected until both borrowers allegedly defaulted on their loan repayments. During a subsequent verification exercise, bank officials found discrepancies in the documents submitted by the accused. A detailed scrutiny reportedly revealed that the salary slips, employment records and bank statements used to secure the loans were forged.

The police have registered cases under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, relating to cheating, forgery, criminal breach of trust and the use of forged documents as genuine.

The police have registered two separate FIRS against Guttua Venkatarao and Pavankumar Yelavarthi, charging them with criminal breach of trust, cheating and forgery for further investigation.

The police are also examining whether the accused acted independently or were part of a larger network involved in creating fake salary documents, forged bank statements and fabricated employment records to obtain loans from financial institutions.

Notorious criminal wanted in 68 cases lands in police net

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Banaswadi police have arrested a notorious offender allegedly involved in 68 criminal cases across Karnataka. He had been absconding in connection with more than 30 non-bailable warrants and five proclamation proceedings.

The accused, identified as Syed Abrar, was arrested during the investigation into a case registered at Banaswadi Police Station under Sections 331(2), 331(4), and 62 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

According to the police, officers developed intelligence through informants regarding the whereabouts of the accused during the course of the investigation. A police team traced Abrar to Bagalur and secured him for questioning on June 16, before initiating legal action.

Further verification revealed that the accused has a long criminal history, with several cases registered against him in Bengaluru city, Kolar, and Yadgir districts. Records also showed that he had been absconding for several years and had failed to appear before courts in connection with more than 30 non-bailable warrants and over five proclamation cases.

The police said that the arrest is expected to aid the investigation of several pending cases and facilitate the execution of long-pending court orders against the accused.

Nine climate-tech start-ups to deploy urban sustainability solutions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Nine climate-tech start-ups are set to deploy solutions addressing critical urban sustainability challenges across 10 Indian cities, including Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Mumbai, New Delhi, Pune, Nashik, Bhavnagar, Khammam, and Kozhikode.

Under the 'Innovations in Sustainable Urban Transition Program', led by Social Alpha and the University of Toronto India Foundation (UTIF), these start-ups will deploy solutions that support low-carbon transitions across these cities.

These would include innovations critical to urban sustainability, such as low-carbon construction materials, renewable energy, waste management, water efficiency, and sanitation.

The nine startups include Carbon Strong, Satiq Concrete Manufacturer, Go Do Good Studio, Vivifica Sustainable Solutions, Apeiro Energy, Trinano Technologies, Smart Terra, Vayujal Technologies, and Xpredict Labs.

The expected outcomes of this programme span emissions reduction, waste diversion, production of energy from clean sources, among others. GETTY IMAGES

The start-ups will receive grants of up to ₹35 lakh.

Expected outcomes

The expected outcomes span emissions reduction, waste diversion, production of energy from clean sources, energy efficiency, reduction in non-revenue water losses, reduced dependence on groundwater, and also an increased access to clean drinking water.

"Cities will need to rethink how they design and construct infrastructure, manage resources, deliver essential services, and build resilience to climate risks. Addressing these challenges requires solutions that are practical, reliable, and deployable at scale. Our aim is to support a growing pipeline of innovators addressing urban sustainability challenges and support the deployment of these solutions across Indian cities," said Ganesh Neelam, co-founder, Social Alpha.

Measurable outcomes

The 'Innovations in Sustainable Urban Transition Program' was first launched in 2024. Its first cohort of eleven start-ups deployed innovations in 11 cities, addressing air quality, sanitation, waste management, clean mobility, and low-carbon construction materials.

The programme generated measurable outcomes in emissions avoidance (105.99 tonnes of CO2e), waste diversion (407.15 tonnes), water savings (16,896 kilolitres), and improved air quality (between 20%-94% reduction in PM 2.5 and 10 across four locations).

"What this programme has surfaced is that the constraint isn't the technology. It's the distance between a working solution and a public system ready to absorb it. The nine start-ups in this cohort are being tested against that distance, with pilots designed around what urban local bodies and civic institutions actually need to make adoption decisions," said Gauravi Lobo, director, UTIF.

HC sets aside trial court's order, stays return of abused dogs to owner

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that "the arc of justice must extend even to those who cannot approach the courts themselves", the High Court of Karnataka set aside a trial court order directing that nine abused dogs be handed back to their alleged tormentor during the pendency of the investigation. It called the order "preposterous to say the least" and one that "shocks the conscience of the court."

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing a petition filed by the People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), which had challenged a metropolitan magistrate court's April 25, 2026, order allowing the plea of Ramesh, the owner of the dogs, to have the animals – six Golden Retrievers and three Shih Tzus – handed back to his custody.

The High Court of Karnataka has observed that 'the arc of justice must extend even to those who cannot approach the courts themselves' PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE

PETA, acting on an oral complaint from a neighbour of the dog owner, had lodged a complaint with the Peenya police, who registered a First Information Report on February 15 against the owner for alleged cruelty, including repeated beatings and abuse of the animals.

"A perusal of the magistrate court's order shocks the conscience of this court," the High Court said after examining video evidence and photographs, which it said depicted the owner repeatedly beating the dogs and treating them "like chattels that he can deal with as and how he wants."

The High Court also expressed bewilderment over how the lower court could justify returning the animals to the alleged perpetrator while the investigation into the allegations was still under way.

Pointing out that the law now recognises animals as living beings entitled to dignity and protection from cruelty, the court observed: "The measure of a civilised society is often reflected not merely in how it treats its fellow humans, but in how it extends mercy and justice to the voiceless creatures that inhabit its shared world. Therefore, every act of cruelty against an animal is not merely an injury to a sentient being, but a blemish on the collective human conscience."

'Panel to create SOP on entry of staff into enclosures formed'

A caretaker at Mangaluru's Pilikula Biological Park quenching the thirst of a hippopotamus while cleaning its enclosure. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) on Wednesday informed the High Court of Karnataka that an expert committee has been constituted to evolve a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to govern the entry of staff, veterinarians, and others to animal enclosures in zoological parks across the country.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice K.S. Hemalekha was hearing a PIL petition filed by Mangaluru-based Bhuvan M., a wildlife conservationist and herpetologist who is pursuing MSc in Applied Wildlife Conservation in the U.K.

The CZA counsel also produced before the Bench a copy of a notification issued in May about the constitution of the panel, and the terms and reference given to the committee. The Bench disposed of the petition after taking note that the CZA was in the process of formulating the SOP.

The petitioner had sought direction to the CZA to consider his representation and take steps to formulate SOP after a reply to an RTI query from the CZA disclosed that no SOP had been issued for staff entering animal enclosures.

The petition had listed 17 incidents in zoological parks across the country in the last decade, including seven animal attacks in Karnataka.

The petitioner had referred to the March 2026 incident in which a trainee veterinarian was killed by a pregnant hippopotamus at the Tyavarekoppa Tiger and Lion Safari in Shivamogga.

People-centric digital services likely to be affected for 24 hours

Shutdown to start from 9 p.m. on Thursday; Kharge says upgrades are necessary to strengthen digital administration system

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A number of people-centric online services of the Karnataka government are likely to be hit in a 24-hour window from Thursday, as major upgrades are being taken up in the State Data Centre that hosts many government sites.

The services will be hit from 9 p.m. and the shutdown is expected to last 24 hours.

The centre hosts about 69 departments/corporations of the State government, many of which offers public-oriented online services. Among those likely to be affected include Aadhaar appointment, Bhoomi, Mojini, Mobile One, BangalorOne, KarnatakaOne, challaning of traffic violations by Bangalore Traffic police, Sakala, e-Janaspandana, RTO services and Kaveri, among many others. The survey being conducted by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes is also hosted by the SDC, according to SDC website.

Government offices are also closed on Friday on account of Muharram.

According to Information Technology and Biotechnology Minister Priyank Kharge, the government is taking up important technical maintenance, infrastructure upgradation and security upgrades at the centre for which its services will be temporarily unavailable. The Minister said that several government web portals, public services, issuance of certificates and other online services could be hit since they are all supported by the centre.

Information Technology and Biotechnology Minister Priyank Kharge

Services likely to be hit: Aadhaar appointments, Bhoomi, Mojini, Mobile One, BangaloreOne, KarnatakaOne, challaning of traffic violations, Sakala, e-Janaspandana, RTO services

Why it is necessary

Mr. Kharge said that the upgrades were necessary to strengthen digital administration system and increase its capacity, which will also allow speedy delivery of services without any technical glitch. He said that the State had witnessed increase in the number of digital services in recent years, and there was a need for capacity addition.

State govt. to implement VB-G RAM G from July 1

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has decided to implement Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM-G) from July 1, even as it explores legal options.

For people's welfare

"The VB-G RAM G is being implemented considering the welfare of rural people, women and the downtrodden despite it creating burden on the State exchequer. While the State government funded a total of ₹4,821 crore, when ₹56,492 crore was spent on NREGA creating 182 crore man-days between 2006 and 2026, this year alone the State is expected to spend ₹3,806 crore of the total ₹5,709 crore proposed to be spent," Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar Khandre told pressmen, adding that this will be questioned in the Supreme Court.

Urging the Centre to increase the wages, which is currently ₹375 per day, the Minister said that it had become imperative since minimum wages had been revised in the State. "Issues pertaining to the new scheme will be raised on June 28 during a meting with the Union Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister," he said.

e-Swathu rules

Mr. Khandre said that officials have been asked to work on bringing changes to rules pertaining to providing e-Swathu to houses in gram thana jurisdiction that do not have documents. This will be an one-time effort that will involve inviting objection from public, he said, adding that of about 1.5 crores properties in 5,928 villages, e-Swathu has been given to 53.53 lakh properties. He also said that PDOs deliberately delaying issue of e-Swathu beyond 15 days will be given notices.

826 villages face water shortage

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 826 villages in Karnataka are facing water shortage owing to deficit rainfall. He said that so far the rain deficit is about 42% of the normal, and the groundwater level has also declined. Last year, 1,000 villages faced drinking water problem where borewells were sunk to address the problem, he added.

Yogi says Uttar Pradesh got investment proposals worth ₹50,000 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Uttar Pradesh has received investment proposals worth over ₹50,000 crore from over 15 companies during a series of industry meetings in Bengaluru chaired by the State's Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, claimed a media release from the government

Speaking after the meetings, Mr. Adityanath said the atmosphere of stability and safety provided by the "double-engine government" over the past nine years has enabled Uttar Pradesh to emerge from the 'Bimaru' (ailing) category to a revenue-surplus State.

Mr. Adityanath spoke after an industry roadshow and investment exploratory meetings with several companies including Google in Bengaluru. He said his State was moving forward strongly to invite external investment partners into diverse sectors as it has been growing, he claimed.

Making a pitch for his State to the investors' community, Mr. Adityanath said with sector-specific policies, Uttar Pradesh has created policy support for each business vertical and also developed a comprehensive land bank of 75,000 acres. He said the State has land in 27 locations for developing industrial and logistics clusters and it also has the country's largest expressway: the Ganga Expressway.

According to Mr. Adityanath, the State has five international airports and 11 domestic airports, two IITs, one IIM in Lucknow, five agriculture universities, 89 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and three technical universities.

Jitendra pitches for BRICS Space Economy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh on Wednesday pitched for BRICS Space Economy.

Participating in the valedictory session of the BRICS Heads of Space Agencies (HOSA) meeting in Bengaluru, he called for collective action among BRICS member-nations to unlock new opportunities in innovation, investment, entrepreneurship and sustainable development.

"The future of the space economy will not be shaped by nations working in isolation. It will be shaped by partnerships, shared innovation and collective ambition. BRICS countries have the potential to become one of the strongest pillars of this emerging global space ecosystem," Dr. Singh said. Hosted by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) under India's BRICS Chairship 2026, the two-day meeting was attended by heads of space agencies and senior officials from Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates.

The meeting also reviewed progress in BRICS space cooperation and deliberated on key issues including space sustainability, debris-free missions, strengthening the BRICS Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation (RSSC), expanding participation of new BRICS members in existing cooperation mechanisms, and advancing discussions on the proposed BRICS Space Council.

Deliberations also covered future collaborations in disaster management, and earth observation.

Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd.
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the Work
01	SE/C/PCC	Procurement of 86400 Nos of 8 m 200 kg psc poles to Kanchipuram, C North, Vellore, Erode etc Regions
02	SE/C/PCC	Procurement of 90800 Nos of 8 m 200 kg psc poles to Madurai, Tirunelveli, Trichy Regions
03	SE/C/PCC	Procurement of 90000 Nos of 8 m 200 kg psc poles to Agricultural services in all Regions
04	SE/C/PCC	Procurement of 67300 Nos of 9 m 300 kg psc poles to Madurai, Tirunelveli, Trichy Regions
05	SE/C/PCC	Procurement of 71900 Nos of 9 m 300 kg psc poles to Kanchipuram C North Vellore Erode etc Regions
06	SE/C/PCC	Procurement of 35500 Nos of 9 m 300 kg psc poles to Agricultural services in all Regions
07	SE/C/PCC	Procurement of 29000 Nos of 9 m 400 kg psc poles to all Distribution Regions
09	SE/C/PCC	Procurement of 38000 Nos of 9 m 150 kg RCC poles to all Regions
10	SE/C/PCC	Procurement of 7100 Nos of 9 m 150 kg RCC poles to Agricultural service in all distribution Regions

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit the websites **www.tnpdcl.org, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in**

DIPR/2132/Tender/2026

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE

REBECCA FRANCIS
30-05-1954 to 23-06-2026
She lived fiercely, loved deeply, and showed us all what true strength and grit looks like. She was our anchor, and her bold spirit will live on in us forever.
Deeply Mourned by:
Tina & Binu, Mithu, Tresa & Bruce
Grandchildren: Rahul, Rheanna, Nikhil & Akira

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Smt.Jayalakshmi DOB: 16.08.1927 DOD: 17.12.2004
Sri.K.V.Rajagopalan DOB: 26.11.1918 DOD: 25.06.2001
Fondly Remembered by Children, Grand Children & Great Grand Children

ಡಾ. ಮನಮೋಹನ್ ಸಿಂಗ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ
Dr. MANMOHAN SINGH BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY

Office of the Registrar, Central College Campus, Dr. B.R Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru – 560 001. E-mail: registrar@bcu.ac.in

Tender No: BCU/2026-27/IND0028 Date: 24-06-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP portal only)

Name of the work	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Secure Wired and Wireless Networking & RF Connectivity at Bangalore City University, Central College Campus, Bengaluru
EMD	**Rs. 7,50,000/-**
Last date for queries	**01-07-2026 Up to 16.30 hrs.**
Pre Bid Meeting Date And Place	**02-07-2026 at 11.30 hrs Registrar's Office, Administrative Block, Central College Campus, Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University, Bengaluru**
Last Date For Submission Of Tender	**16-07-2026 Up to 16.30 hrs.**
Opening Of The Technical Bid	**17-07-2026 at 16.35 hrs.**

Note: Payment of Tender processing fee and EMD amount as per E-procurement Portal.

DIPR/CP/1336/SSC/2026-27 Sd/- Registrar

RAJIV GANDHI HOUSING CORPORATION LTD.
Cauvery Bhavan, 9th Floor, E&F Block, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560009. Phone : 080-23118888/22106888

Dated: 23.06.2026

Short Term Tender Notification (Through KPPP portal)

Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited invites Short Term tenders for the following work through e-procurement from the eligible contractors.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender [Excluding GST] (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Rs. (in Lakhs)
1	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School (Extension of School Building in G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Tadas Village, Shiggaon Taluk of Haveri District. Package - 7F. **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT140**	350.52	5.26
2	Construction of Moulana Azad School (Extension of School Building in G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Yadgiri (Bhimanagar), Yadgiri District. Package - 19A **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT141**	331.91	4.97
3	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School (Extension of School Building in G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Kadechur (RMSA), Yadgiri District. Package – 15 **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT142**	386.84	5.80
4	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School (Extension of School Building in G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Balaganur, Sindagi, Vijayapura District. Package - 14A **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT143**	429.21	6.43
5	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School (Extension of School Building in G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in School No.5, Vijayapura City, Vijayapura District. Package - 14C **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT144**	313.08	4.69
6	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School (Extension of School Building in G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Ukkali, Basavana Bagewadi, Vijayapura District. Package - 14B. **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT145**	189.09	2.83
7	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School (Extension of School Building in G plus 1 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Kuduru, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District. Package – 12 **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT146**	394.38	5.91
8	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School (Extension of School Building in G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Donabaghatta, Anwar Colony, Bhadravathi, Shimoga District. Package - 13B **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT147**	221.03	3.31
9	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School (Extension of School Building in G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in B H Road, Bhadravathi, Shimoga District. Package - 13A **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT148**	373.42	5.60
10	Construction of Moulana Azad School (Extension of School Building in G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Gurumitkal, Yadgiri District. Package - 19B **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT149**	353.10	5.29
11	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School (Extension of School Building in G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Hanagandi, Jamakhandi Place, Bagalkote District. Package - 1A **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT150**	439.41	6.59
12	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School (Extension of School Building in G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Teradal RMSAI , Jamakhandi Place, Bagalkote District. Package - 1B **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT151**	477.07	7.15
13	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School (Extension of School Building in G plus 3 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Bailhongal Place, Belagavi District. Package - 2A **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT152**	422.60	6.33
14	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School (Extension of School Building in G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Munvalli, Savadatti Place, Belagavi District. Package - 2B **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT153**	382.50	5.74
15	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School (Extension of School Building in G plus 3 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Somawarpeth, Kittur Place, Belagavi District. Package - 2C **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT154**	491.90	7.38
16	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School (Extension of School Building in G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Karoshi, Chikkodi Place, Belagavi District. Package - 2D **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT155**	405.45	6.08
17	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School (Extension of School Building in G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Raibag, Chikkodi Place, Belagavi District. Package - 2E **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT156**	388.95	5.83
18	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School (Extension of School Building in G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Kudachi, Raibag Place, Belagavi District. Package - 2F **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT157**	289.20	4.34
19	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School (Extension of School Building in G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Mudalagi Place, Belagavi District. Package - 2G **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT158**	501.16	7.51

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF BID: 08-07-2026

Further information visit : **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in, https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/YC/1330/2026-27 Sd/- General Manager (S D)

INBRIEF

Don't be negligent towards SIR, Revanth tells leaders

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed Ministers and senior Congress leaders, including MLAs and MPs, to be cautious about the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls – starting on Thursday, warning that it is a serious subject. Participating in a zoom meeting with party leaders on Wednesday, he found fault with some leaders for their negligent attitude towards the exercise. Poor people will lose voting rights, he said and called for awareness drives.

Amaravati Eye set to be India's tallest observation wheel

Amaravati is set to get what is expected to be India's tallest observation wheel, surpassing the iconic London Eye. Proposed at a height of 139 metres, the 'Amaravati Eye' is envisioned as a landmark tourism and entertainment attraction. According to the techno-economic feasibility report prepared for Amaravati Growth and Infrastructure Corporation Limited, the project will be developed on a five-acre riverfront site.

TNMSC to buy gold rings for newborns; move flayed

Tamil Nadu, which pioneered maternity assistance through the Dr. Muthulakshmi Maternity Benefit Scheme, is set to gift gold to newborns born in government hospitals. A poll promise of the TVK, the *Thaimaaman Thanga Mothiram Thittam* will provide one-gram gold rings to newborns. The task of procuring the rings has been entrusted to Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation, which was established to ensure the uninterrupted supply of essential medicines to government hospitals.

Kerala Left parties lock horns with Cong. govt. over PM SHRI

Each side accuses the other of 'surrendering to Sangh Parivar agenda'; Minister says a committee is studying the scheme; Opposition walks out of Assembly after Speaker rejects plea for discussion

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Assembly saw heated discussions on Wednesday on the Centrally funded school development scheme.

The Opposition Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the ruling Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) on Wednesday locked horns in the Kerala Assembly over the implementation of the Centrally funded PM SHRI (Prime Minister Schools for Rising India) scheme in the State. Each side accused the other of "surrendering to the Sangh Parivar agenda".

The Opposition said that although the previous LDF government had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Centre for the implementation of the scheme in Kerala in October 2025, the government withdrew from the scheme within just 20 days after requesting the Centre to keep the MoU in abeyance, considering the larger interests of the State, said Leader of the Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan.

The present ruling front, which was in the Opposition at that time and had claimed that it would "throw PM SHRI into the Arabian Sea if it came to power," is now pursuing the project without any shame, Mr. Vijayan added.

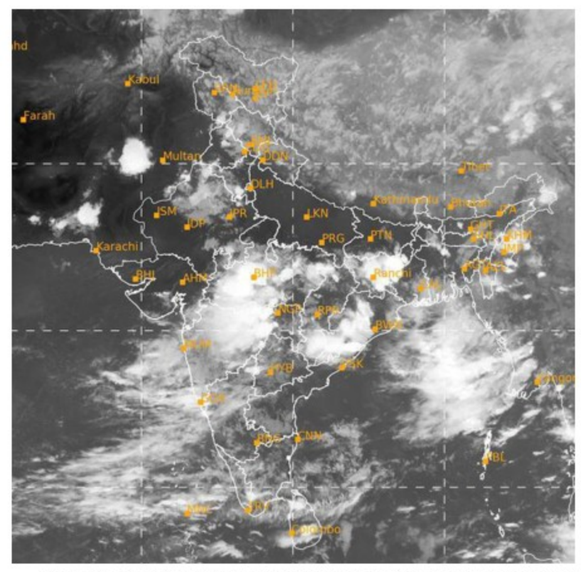
However, rejecting the Opposition's allegations, General Education Minister N. Samsudheen said the UDF had not taken any stance on the issue. The government has only appointed a Cabinet subcommittee to study the scheme, he said.

After his reply, Speaker Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan rejected the Opposition's demand to adjourn all other business to discuss the issue. The LDF members then staged a walkout.

The PM SHRI is aimed at developing select schools as model institutions in line with the National Education Policy, 2020.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: AQICN/CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Telangana, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa and Karnataka. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.3	26.5	Kurnool	—	36.1	26.3
Ahmedabad	—	40.4	29.2	Lucknow	—	40.4	28.0
Aizawl	115.8	28.6	21.4	Madurai	—	39.0	26.0
Bengaluru	—	30.4	21.2	Mangaluru	12	30.4	22.6
Bhopal	—	34.6	24.4	Mumbai	225	27.7	22.4
Bhubaneswar	—	37.8	27.0	Mysuru	—	30.2	20.2
Chandigarh	—	39.8	26.1	New Delhi	8	39.3	26.0
Chennai	—	36.7	29.0	Patna	—	40.6	27.2
Coimbatore	—	31.4	22.5	Port Blair	3	31.4	26.0
Dehradun	—	34.7	23.8	Prayagraj	—	43.4	28.6
Gangtok	28	25.0	17.2	Puducherry	—	37.6	29.0
Goa	39	28.4	23.8	Pune	38.4	29.9	22.0
Guwahati	3	34.6	26.6	Raipur	6	37.0	25.2
Hubballi	—	28.0	23.0	Ranchi	—	34.4	22.8
Hyderabad	—	32.4	24.5	Shillong	4	26.3	15.9
Imphal	—	32.0	22.7	Shimla	—	27.8	20.2
Jaipur	—	38.9	27.6	Srinagar	—	32.0	16.2
Kochi	2	29.8	25.4	Thiruvananthapuram	0.4	33.4	24.5
Kohima	—	24.0	19.0	Tiruchirappalli	—	36.7	27.6
Kolkata	17	32.8	25.3	Vijayawada	—	37.0	27.0
Kozhikode	4	32.6	24.8	Visakhapatnam	—	34.2	28.3

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bengaluru	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chennai	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi	3	10	7	153	101	
Hyderabad	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kolkata	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lucknow	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mumbai	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pune	—	—	—	—	—	—
Visakhapatnam	—	—	—	—	—	—

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sonipat, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 295 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

BJP councillors retake oath after court order

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala High Court on Wednesday directed 20 BJP councillors of the Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation to retake their oaths in the name of God or by making a solemn affirmation. They had taken oath in the name of local deities, Bharath Matha, and "*Balidaanis*" (martyrs in RSS parlance).

The order came on a petition filed by Left Democratic Front Council Party leader in the corporation, S.P. Deepak.

Justice P.V. Kunhikrishnan held that the councillors' original oaths were invalid as per the Kerala Municipality Act, 1994.

After the order, an oath-taking ceremony was held and 19 councillors took oath. One councillor is in jail. A Congress ward member of the Vadakkanchery grama panchayat in Palakkad was also directed to retake oath.

₹405-cr. gold mining facility opens in A.P.

K. Umashanker
KURNOOL

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the first unit of a gold mining project at Jonnagiri in Kurnool district on Wednesday.

The ₹405-crore plant was established by Geomysore Services India Pvt. Limited (GMSI). Mr. Naidu also laid the foundation stone for the second unit.

Marking the commencement of sales, he then handed over gold produced at the unit to jewellery firms in the State.

Addressing a public meeting later, the Chief Minister said: "Jonnagiri, once known as Suvarnagiri, will emerge as a model growth centre for Andhra Pradesh." Karnataka's Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) had once dominated the national scene, but now "Jonnagiri unit is the cynosure of all eyes". "The plant will have an annual capacity of 400 kg of gold," he said.

Calicut varsity says 'no' to proposal for research on astrology

A.S. Jayanth
KOZHIKODE

The University of Calicut has rejected a demand to introduce research facilities on astrology in its affiliated colleges and study centres.

The demand was put forward by the general secretary of the Panikkar Service Society (Kaniyar Trust) before a legislature committee on backward classes welfare earlier this year when the Left Democratic Front government was in power. The society wanted to set up "a research system on astrology at the government level" after "linking astrology with astronomy." A demand was also made to "involve experts" in the project.

The committee forwarded the proposal to the Higher Education department, which sought the opinion of the university.

According to sources, the university authorities did not initially respond to the proposal. A reminder was sent again on June 12, 2026. Thereafter, the steering committee on four-year undergraduate programmes (FYUGP) discussed the issue. Unanimous approval of the committee is necessary to take any decision related to the FYUGP in affiliated colleges and study centres.

The sources said on Wednesday that 12 of the 15 members rejected the demand. "Astronomy is a scientific subject, while astrology is not related to science. We felt that mixing the two will not be appropriate," one of the members told *The Hindu*.

Coast guard

Workers constructing a protective sea wall to prevent erosion of the Shanghumugham beach in Thiruvananthapuram. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

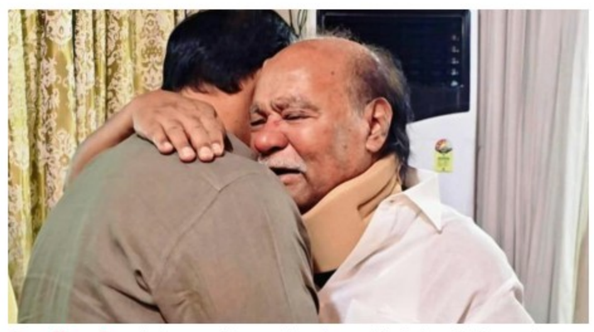
Anbumani calls on father and PMK founder Ramadoss

The Hindu Bureau
VILLUPURAM

Amid the ongoing internal feud within the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), party president Anbumani Ramadoss on Wednesday called on his father and party founder S. Ramadoss at the family's Thailapuram residence near Tindivanam in Villupuram district.

Dr. Anbumani, accompanied by his wife and Dharmapuri MLA Sowmiya Anbumani and other family members, visited his parents on the occasion of their 61st wedding anniversary.

Speaking to reporters, Dr. Anbumani said that he visited Thailapuram seeking his parents' blessing on their wedding anniversary.



Mending ties: Anbumani Ramadoss hugs his father S. Ramadoss at the family's Thailapuram residence on Wednesday.

When asked whether their differences had ended, he said that good things would happen now.

The strained relationship between Dr. Anbumani and his father, Dr. Ramadoss, escalated into a leadership tussle in December 2024, with the senior Ramadoss attempting to reclaim party control and Anbumani refusing to relinquish it.

The party contested the recently held Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu in two factions - one led by the son, which was part of the National Democratic Alliance, and the other led by the father, which was in alliance with V.K. Sasikala's outfit.

Kerala seeks help from T.N., Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala, on Wednesday, sought to rope in the governments of neighbouring Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry to combat the inter-State flow of marijuana and synthetic drugs through joint enforcement and intelligence sharing.

Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan has written to his counterparts in the three States to join forces to dismantle criminal enterprises that thrive on drug smuggling.

He also focused on coordinating with Central agencies, including the Narcotics Control Bureau, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, and Customs and Central Excise, to strangle illicit financial channels used by drug smugglers.

He mooted joint patrolling of inter-State borders, covert surveillance to identify student networks which double as mules for narcotic smugglers, guerrilla cultivation of marijuana inside apartments, to mitigate the mounting social, financial and public health burden precipitated by the spiralling abuse of drugs. He also underscored the arrest of foreigners in connection with drug smuggling by the Kerala Police, pointing to the illicit drug trade's international dimensions.

BJP accuses Cong. chief, son of land grab in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Priyank says BJP is attempting to please the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh

The BJP on Wednesday accused Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and his son and Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge of land grabbing.

Hitting back, Mr. Priyank charged the BJP with attempting to please the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

"People are asking for the accounts of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, but the BJP is working overtime to demand the accountability of Lord Buddha in Kalaburagi. You had five BJP Chief Ministers in Karnataka. Why did none of them act?" posted the Karnataka Home Minister on X. "Modi Sarkar has been in power for 12 years. If there was wrongdoing, why am I still roaming free and not in jail?" he said.

At a press conference, BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari claimed that Mr. Kharge and his son were "engaging in land grabbing and corruption in Karnataka through Siddhartha Vihar Trust". "This trust includes Mallikarjun Kharge, his son Priyank Kharge, son-in-law, and his wife. This trust belongs to Mallikarjun Kharge's family. Mallikarjun Kharge and Priyank Kharge have seized control of various lands through this trust and, using their political power, have usurped the lands of the poor," he added.

The BJP's attack came a day after the Congress asked why the allegation of a "land scam" in Madhya Pradesh purportedly involving family members of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav were not being probed. The BJP has dismissed the charges as "baseless".

SIR to begin in Telangana from today

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Election Commission of India's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise will begin on Thursday (June 25), with house-to-house enumeration as the first activity which will continue till July 27.

As a part of this, booth level officers will visit households and distribute pre-printed forms, one original and one duplicate. Electors have been instructed to fill in details of the form and return it to the BLO during their subsequent visits. Once the BLOs collect the forms, they will hand over an acknowledgement. The other copy of the form is to be retained by electors.

In case electors are unavailable, the form will be handed over to any adult member of the elector's family. Electors can also contact BLOs either over phone using the contact number of BLOs as mentioned on the website https://ceotelangana.nic.in in case electors have not received the form, or through the Book a Call with BLO. Electors have been instructed to check the website and ECINET app.

The draft electoral roll will be published on July 31. Electors can file claims and objections from July 31 to August 30.

Viksit and Surakshit

The cost of inaction on safety issues is more than that of enforcement

The Lucknow fire, which killed 15 people, mostly students, and injured five others, captures both the promise and the perils of aspirational India. It reflects a booming education economy built around a growing services sector, but also the unplanned urban growth and regulatory failures that often accompany it. India's young population, eager to acquire skills and improve economic prospects, has fuelled an ecosystem of coaching centres and training institutes, many of which operate outside formal regulatory frameworks, require low capital investment and generate high profits. As advances in artificial intelligence threaten to reshape employment patterns and formal educational institutions struggle to keep pace with skill requirements, such centres are likely to proliferate. The three-storey building where the fire occurred was reportedly not authorised for commercial use, yet it escaped demolition despite repeated notices. According to the FIR by the civic authorities, neither the owners nor the businesses operating there had made adequate provisions for fire safety. Such violations are common across India, where commercial and educational establishments have little regard for basic safety norms.

The Lucknow incident is also part of a disturbing pattern. This summer has witnessed a succession of major fire accidents across the country. Public attention usually focuses on administrative negligence, and official explanations frequently end with the phrase "electrical fire" – a description that often conceals more than it reveals. Electrical fires can arise from several identifiable causes, including overloaded circuits caused by growing use of appliances, harmonic currents generated by sophisticated equipment that create localised hotspots, poor-quality wiring, and the absence of arc-fault protection devices. Understanding these causes is key to preventing similar tragedies. This requires a stronger culture of investigation. India suffers from inadequate firefighting infrastructure and a shortage of trained fire-forensics experts capable of conducting rigorous root-cause analyses and recommending systemic remedies. Without such expertise, lessons from each disaster remain limited. The challenge therefore demands a national response. India's ambition of becoming a developed nation cannot be separated from the imperative of ensuring public safety. Yet, many buildings lack mandatory fire detection and suppression systems that are standard in developed countries. A Viksit Bharat must also be a Surakshit Bharat. A nationwide assessment of building safety, even through a scientifically designed sample survey, would provide valuable data for reform. The task may be large, but the human and economic costs of inaction are far greater.

Razor's edge

High heat and low rainfall is threatening agricultural produce

The southwest monsoon deficit nationwide has increased from 35% to 43%; the winds' northward advance was stalled near Mumbai; and both the U.S. NOAA and the India Meteorological Department (IMD) expect a moderate-to-strong El Niño this year. The El Niño suppresses the vertical air movement needed for rainclouds to form while a warming Pacific is weakening the trade winds that bring moisture to the subcontinent. The Madden-Julian Oscillation is also in an unfavourable phase and the Indian Ocean Dipole currently cannot offer a buffer. Further, while northwest India has received 5% more rain than normal, central India and the northeast face deficits of 63% and 43%, respectively. But with two-thirds of the seasonal rainfall historically arriving in July and August, the monsoon may still recover and salvage the season. Together with reservoir storage at 30.4% of capacity, compared with 25.1% during previous El Niño years, there is no reason for alarm yet. However, the effects for agriculture are more concerning. The Agriculture Ministry has already prioritised 111 districts out of 315 vulnerable ones based on their irrigation coverage. Extreme heat has been reducing farm labour productivity. High heat and rain shortfall have sown anxiety over the cardamom harvest in Idukki, a fate that bodes ill for other plantation crops in the Western Ghats.

Both the *kharif* sowing window for rice, pulses, and oilseeds and the availability of fertilizers could come under pressure, the latter due to Chinese export curbs and tensions in West Asia, heightening the risks of lower soil moisture and higher input stress. Retail food inflation was 4.2% in April; further deficits will especially threaten vegetables and pulses, complicating the monetary policy. The fundamental problem is the way India has built its rural economy around the assumption of reliable rainfall delivery. No adaptation strategy can indefinitely outpace unchecked warming, so limiting future warming should amount to reducing the extent of exposure. The ideal sustainable strategies are to switch from rain-centric to water-centric organisation, reduce dependence on water-intensive crops, and improve resilience. Pathways for the first two have already been outlined. On the last, while the Agriculture Ministry's extant contingency plans reflect the need for adjustable sowing windows and alternative seed varieties, the principal variable remains implementation at scale. Second, the government should consider a new authority to coordinate inter-State water use and cropping changes based on extended El Niño forecasts, eliminating the cropping governance currently fragmented between the Agriculture and Jal Shakti Ministries, and the IMD.

PACOM, the deeper meaning behind a dropped prefix

Suhasini Haidar

The decision by the United States military to change the name of its naval command in the region from "US INDOPACOM" to "US PACOM" – United States Indo-Pacific Command to United States Pacific Command – reverting to its original name that was changed in 2018 can be dismissed as superficial, even trivial. Many have already responded with the Shakespearean "What's in a name?", even as the U.S. Department of War pointed out that US PACOM's area of responsibility, from "the waters off the West Coast of the United States to the western border of India" or what had once been described as "Hollywood to Bollywood, from polar bears to penguins", has never changed. In 2018, U.S. Defence Secretary Jim Mattis said that the name INDOPACOM was a recognition of the "growing significance" of the Indian Ocean, the Indian subcontinent, and India itself, and the U.S. dropped the term "Asia-Pacific" to "Indo-Pacific".

Current U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth gave the signal, on May 30, that this understanding has now changed, at his speech at the annual Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore – compared to more than 30 references to the "Indo-Pacific" in his speech in 2025, his speech this year contained not a single reference to the Indo-Pacific region or strategy.

Given the centre stage that the U.S.'s Indo-Pacific policy has had in India's strategic calculus since 2018, it is necessary, therefore, to go beyond the superficial to the subterranean or submarine, in this case. New Delhi must study how broader trends in U.S. policy are attempting to recast both the region and India's position within it in terms of three broader geographies.

U.S.-China ties and the Quad

The first, is the U.S.'s outreach to China, and concurrently diminishing salience of the Quad (India, Japan Australia, the U.S.), which Beijing has always protested as an "exclusive clique" or derisively as "ocean foam". In the long term, the U.S. and China cannot shy away from the fierce rivalry between them, but it is clear that in the immediate term, Trump 2.0 has decided to play nice.

U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to Beijing in May 2026 and Chinese President Xi Jinping's upcoming visit to the U.S. on September 24, indicate that the two sides do not want their differences to overcome the relationship, and the U.S. is tiptoeing around the Taiwan issue. Mr. Trump's references to a "G-2", including during a press availability with Mr. Modi on the sidelines of the 52nd G-7 summit in France (June 15 to 17), are an early warning of a plan to recast the world into "spheres of influence", where China would be the predominant power in the continent, not as one pole in a multipolar Asia, as India envisions.

As a result, the Quad, rebuilt in Trump 1.0 as a counter to China in the region, appears to be floundering. The U.S.'s National Defense Strategy released in January 2026 does not mention the Quad even once. In terms of substance, the Quad's combined agenda has been pared down to four areas of cooperation – maritime security, economic prosperity, critical and emerging minerals technology and disaster responses. Even within these limited objectives, there have been setbacks, such as over Artificial Intelligence cooperation. Despite Quad countries signing on to Pax Silica, and Critical Minerals Initiative Framework with the U.S., the Trump administration ordered Anthropic to end access to its latest models for all non-Americans.

> The U.S.'s reversion from INDOPACOM to PACOM suggests that its regional shifts run deeper than a simple name change

Another question concerns the Quad Summit, which India has unsuccessfully sought to host since January 2024. During U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to Delhi in May 2026, he offered no firm commitment that Mr. Trump would visit Delhi this year, amid indications that the Quad may be relegated to a Foreign Ministers' level grouping. The U.S. Navy's reported actions involving Iranian ship *IRIS Dena* (March 2006) and recent attacks on three ships in which three Indians were killed underscore maritime security and domain awareness concerns within the Quad framework. In July, when he hosts Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and travels to Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi must discuss alternative maritime coalitions and revive the Australia-India-Japan trilateral.

The U.S.-Iran MoU and West Asia

The second geography of concern is West Asia. The U.S. ceasefire with Iran, after just a few months of a surprisingly badly planned war, is indicative of a general fatigue in Trump 2.0 with U.S. friends and allies in the region. The situation is even more volatile today than it was prior to February 28, especially given the short shrift Israel has received in negotiations with Iran, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's defiance over the ceasefire for Lebanon.

A closer look at the 14-paragraph "Islamabad MoU" released by Iran reveals several signals for the region. Paragraph four states that the U.S. commits to "remove its forces from the proximity of the Islamic Republic of Iran" within 30 days after the final deal. Paragraph five says that, after the Hormuz Strait is demined, Iran and Oman will define the Strait's future administration in consultation with Persian Gulf littoral states.

Paragraph 6 stipulates that the U.S., along with regional allies, will provide at least $300 billion for Iran's reconstruction. These provisions imply commitments on behalf of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) states while giving Iran leverage on key issues – military, connectivity, and economic security. Oman and Qatar are now closer to Iran than before and have been part of the Pakistan-led mediation process, while countries such as Saudi Arabia are seeking new security arrangements with Türkiye, Pakistan, and Ukraine.

India's policy towards the region requires a rapid revision in light of the post-war, post-deal power structure. What was once a finely balanced approach now appears tilted towards Israel and the United Arab Emirates. New Delhi must also urgently reconsider its compliance with U.S. sanctions on Iranian oil and the Chabahar port, given Washington's shifting positions.

The U.S. and South Asia

Finally, India must study the implications of U.S. foreign policy decisions in its neighbourhood. The appointment of Sergio Gor as both U.S. Ambassador to India and Special Envoy for South and Central Asia signals Washington's growing regional ambitions. New Delhi has pushed back on attempts by the U.S. to become a supra entity in South Asia, as well as its efforts to resolve intra-regional conflicts between India and Pakistan. This ambition was hinted at during Operation Sindoor (May 2025), and repeated by Mr. Trump over the past year, especially as he met the Pakistani leadership many times in this period.

Mr. Gor's recent travels to Kathmandu, Thimphu, Dhaka and Colombo indicate that the U.S. is keen to broaden its efforts across the region. In the absence of effective pan-regional frameworks such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) – both are constrained by New Delhi's political tensions with Islamabad and Dhaka – it is clear that the U.S. is entering into competition with China for influence in South Asia.

Beijing has already built several mechanisms for cooperation with South Asia, and both powers side-stepping India. India, as chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association, and with Mr. Modi due to attend the planned BIMSTEC summit in Bangladesh and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Pakistan next year, has an opportunity to reassert its regional leadership. Given the opportunities, a revival of the SAARC grouping and other pan-regional initiatives must be considered.

Concerns over the U.S.'s moves across India's geographies may seem contrary to the bonhomie at the Modi-Trump meeting at the G-7 meet in France, and the red carpet for Mr. Rubio's India visit. Shorn of the rhetoric, however, the trends in U.S. policy are clear, and New Delhi must plan accordingly, acknowledging that the shifts run far deeper than the ripples on the surface caused by a dropped prefix.

suhasini.h@thehindu.co.in

Clearing the road to timely trauma care in India

Piyush Tewari

The Founder and the CEO of SaveLIFE Foundation, a non-profit committed to saving lives through road safety and trauma care

On May 26, 2026, the Supreme Court of India delivered a landmark judgment with implications for public health policy. Hearing a writ petition filed by SaveLIFE Foundation in October 2024, a Bench of Justices J.K. Maheshwari and Atul S. Chandurkar, in *SaveLIFE Foundation & Anr. vs Union of India & Ors.*, held that the right to trauma care is an integral part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Court ruled that this right extends from the site of injury to definitive hospital treatment and issued nine binding directions to the Union, States and Union Territories, with implementation timelines ranging from three to six months.

Around 4.67 lakh Indians die every year from injuries such as road crashes, falls, burns, drowning, industrial mishaps, fires and disasters, according to National Crime Records Bureau data. Road crashes alone account for nearly 1.77 lakh deaths. Trauma is the leading cause of death among Indians aged 18-45. The Law Commission (201st Report) has estimated that half of road-crash fatalities could be prevented with timely care, while a 2021 NITI Aayog-AIIMS Emergency and Injury Care Report found that at least 30% of deaths are linked to delays in emergency response. India does not lack policies or guidelines; what it has lacked is a uniform, enforceable trauma-care framework.

What the top court has held

The Bench built on earlier jurisprudence. In *Parmanand Katara vs Union of India* (1989), the Court recognised the duty of doctors to render emergency aid. In *Paschim Banga Khet Mazdoor Samiti vs State of West Bengal* (1996), it read access to emergency care into Article 21. In the present order, Article 21, the Court held, covers the entire chain that connects an injured person to medical care: the bystander, the emergency call, the ambulance, the paramedic, the receiving facility.

> Judicial oversight may finally realise the constitutional right to trauma care

The framing imposes a positive obligation on the state to build and sustain an integrated trauma response system.

This matters because survival in trauma depends on systems rather than on individual institutions. A well-equipped hospital cannot compensate for a delayed ambulance. An ambulance cannot help if the bystander is afraid to call. A trauma surgeon cannot save a patient who never reaches the hospital in time.

A cooperative federalism approach

Public health, hospitals and ambulance services fall under the State List in the Seventh Schedule, making cooperation between the Union and the States essential for a uniform trauma-care framework. Compliance affidavits and information notes filed by 34 States and Union Territories indicate a willingness to implement Union policies and standardise trauma care. Accepting the Attorney General's submission that the Union should act as an enabler, the Bench called for "sustained and concerted efforts" by both levels of government. The directions do not alter the constitutional division of powers; they provide judicial backing to existing frameworks such as Prime Minister - Road Accident Victims' Hospitalisation and Assured Treatment (PM RAHAT), the National Ambulance Code AIS-125, Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)-112, the emergency medical technician (EMT) curriculum, the Good Samaritan Rules and the Health Ministry's trauma-care guidelines.

The directions fall into five clusters. On communications, all emergency numbers (100, 101, 102, 108, 1033, 1091 and their State variants) must be integrated into helpline 112 within three months, with mass media publicity. On bystander protection, every State must set up physical and digital grievance-redress systems for Good Samaritans, with nodal authorities at the State and district levels. On pre-hospital response, all registered ambulances, public and private, must comply with the National Ambulance Code, carry GPS integrated in real time with helpline 112, and undergo structured audits of response times and clinical outcomes. States must also adopt the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP)-notified EMT curriculum. On hospitals, trauma facilities must be graded and designated so their capabilities are transparent. On finance, States have eight weeks to operationalise PM RAHAT, the Centre's cashless treatment scheme for road-crash victims; non-implementation will count as a violation of the Motor Vehicles Act. The Court has additionally directed the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to notify a national medical rescue protocol and a Trauma Registry data format, with State trauma registries to link up to a coordinated national registry.

A follow-up, the challenges

The order's significance lies as much in its compliance architecture as in its constitutional declaration. Copies will be sent to every Chief Secretary, Action Taken Reports must be filed with the Court Registry, and the Attorney General of India is to monitor implementation. The matter has been listed to be heard again in about four months for further directions.

Implementation will be challenging. State capacity varies widely, ambulance networks remain uneven, and helpline integration has lagged for long. The burden of inaction, however, has shifted. States must now demonstrate progress before the Court. For an injured Indian, the question after a crash or a fall should no longer be which number to call, whether help will arrive, or whether there is a capable hospital nearby. The Court has settled the constitutional question; governments must now ensure that timely and effective trauma care becomes a reality.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chief Minister's speech

It is clear from Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay's maiden speech, laced with 'punch dialogues', in the Tamil Nadu Assembly that he has not yet fully outgrown his passion for acting. His dramatic 'hand movement' may have delighted his fans, but they were out of place on the floor of the august House. A substantial portion of his speech was devoted to self-praise and DMK-bashing. Mr. Vijay cannot shirk responsibility by claiming that he has inherited long-standing problems and that addressing them will take time.

His foremost priorities should be preventing crimes against women and curbing the drug menace in the State. His reference to the electoral defeat of DMK president M.K. Stalin through a "short story" was also unnecessary. That said, Mr. Vijay deserves credit for giving greater representation to Dalits and women in his Ministry, and for reaffirming his commitment to secularism, social justice and ending illegal mining.

G. David Milton,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

The Chief Minister's gestures and dramatic flourishes, accompanied by gleeful clapping and hooting from the Treasury benches to score political points over the Opposition, resembled a scene from a masala potboiler rather than a legislative debate.

Such conduct is an affront to the intelligence of the electorate. Our lawmakers would do well to restore decorum to the House; only then can governance receive the attention it deserves.

S. Sanjeevi Rao,
Puducherry

Hand in the till

It is distressing that the Ram temple is in the limelight for all the wrong reasons, especially since the government has sought to derive political dividends from its consecration. Reports of alleged embezzlement and pilferage of donations are deeply upsetting for devotees. The perpetrators must be brought to book at the earliest to restore public trust.

Aanya Singhal,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Sustaining India's low-fertility future

Amarendu Nandy

Associate Professor, Economics & Public Policy Area, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ranchi. Views are personal

India is entering a new demographic phase. The latest Sample Registration System data puts the country's total fertility rate at 1.9 children per woman, below both the global average of 2.2 and the replacement level of 2.1 needed to keep a population stable. For a country that has long worried about population growth, this marks an important turn.

However, the decline is not uniform. Rural fertility is still around the replacement mark, while urban fertility has fallen to 1.5. The sharper divide is geographic. Delhi's fertility rate stands at an ultra-low of 1.2, while Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are at 1.3. These levels are lower than those in the United States (1.6), Finland (1.4), and Japan (1.3). At the other end, Bihar remains at 2.9, followed by Uttar Pradesh (2.6), Madhya Pradesh (2.4), and Rajasthan (2.3).

The implication is that India has crossed into low fertility as a nation, but not as one demographic economy. While some States are already moving rapidly towards ageing, others still have large cohorts set to enter the labour force over the next two decades. India must create productive opportunities for young workers in poorer and younger States, while strengthening income, care, and health systems for older populations where fertility has already fallen very low.

A difficult shift

The transition could indeed be challenging. Western Europe and Japan aged after they had industrialised, brought a large share of workers into formal employment, widened their tax systems, and built welfare institutions with some capacity for risk-pooling. Even then, ageing strained public finances; Japan saw the burden push public debt above 200% of GDP.

India enters the same demographic passage on a weaker institutional and fiscal base. Its per-capita income is around $2,800. Its direct tax base remains narrow, with net direct taxpayers accounting for only about 6% of the total population. State governments, tasked with much of the social-sector response, are already fiscally stretched.

The labour-market base is just as fragile. Since most workers spend their lives in informal or semi-formal work, old-age income security remains largely outside formal employment contracts. A contribution-based pension system works best when earnings are predictable, employment is formal, and workers can save regularly over decades. In India, that assumption holds for only a minority of the workforce.

Existing public safety nets acknowledge this vulnerability but do not provide meaningful income security. The Atal Pension Yojana assumes sustained contributions across one's working life, which is difficult for informal workers with volatile incomes. The old-age pension under the National Social Assistance Programme remains ₹200 a month for those aged 60 to 79 and ₹500 for those above 80. Such support does not protect the elderly from dependence.

Income security, however, is only one part of the problem. For generations, India's welfare state has been partly hidden inside the household. The joint family, co-resident children, and unpaid female care absorbed many of the costs of old age. That arrangement is weakening under the pressure of urbanisation, migration, nuclear households, and women's educational and work aspirations. Studies of left-behind elderly parents show that while children's migration improves monetary resources, it worsens loneliness and health vulnerability.

To be sure, India has about 150 million people aged 60 and above. By 2050, that number is projected to rise to 347 million, or nearly one-fifth of the population. Yet the income base of old age remains weak. NITI Aayog has noted that 70% of the elderly depend on others while 78% have no pension cover. These numbers explain why India needs an inflation-indexed minimum pension floor, not as a substitute for contributory pensions, but as a basic layer of public risk-pooling for old age.

Ageing will also change the nature of healthcare demand. The pressure will come from the long-term management of hypertension, diabetes, dementia, disability, and palliative dependence. India has shown that sustained public investment can alter demographic outcomes. It did so for fertility, institutional deliveries, and child survival. The same mission-mode action will now be needed for embedding geriatric care into nursing practice, district health planning, and primary care.

The question of migration

The transition also has a federal dimension. The fastest-ageing States will increasingly need workers from younger States. This could be a source of national balance, but only if younger States invest aggressively in education, health, and skills, so that their workers do not merely move into low-wage informality elsewhere. It will also require older, richer, and more urbanised States to treat migrants not as temporary labour but as citizens who help sustain their economies and therefore deserve portable protection. A national labour market cannot rest on welfare systems tied narrowly to domicile. If workers move across State borders, their entitlements must move with them. Portability of welfare benefits must be one of the foundations of an ageing economy.

International evidence shows that low fertility can accompany prosperity. The difficulty is that India is entering mass ageing before completing the transitions that made ageing manageable elsewhere. India's low-fertility future will be sustainable only if stronger public systems gradually assume responsibilities that large families once carried quietly.

Since most workers spend their lives in informal or semi-formal work, old-age income security remains largely outside formal employment contracts

Furore over the Mekedatu project

Tamil Nadu may be waging a losing battle in its fight to get the project scrapped

STATE OF PLAY

T. Ramakrishnan

The row over the Mekedatu dam project, which has been a thorn in the relationship between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, has resurfaced with the Tamil Nadu Assembly adopting a unanimous resolution against the Karnataka government's proposal for constructing a drinking water-cum-balancing reservoir across the Cauvery river at Mekedatu.

The reason for the resolution was apparently the preparation on the part of the upper riparian State to go ahead with the submission of a revised Detailed Project Report (DPR) on the Mekedatu proposal in light of the Supreme Court dismissing Tamil Nadu's petition to review a November 2025 decision; the court termed the State's challenge to Karnataka's proposed dam as "premature". The project envisages impounding 67.16 thousand million cubic ft (TMC ft) through a ₹9,000-crore drinking water-cum-balancing reservoir at Mekedatu, about 100 km from Bengaluru. It would have a 400 MW (megawatt) hydro power component but no irrigation component.

In the Supreme Court's 2018 judgment on the Cauvery dispute, Karnataka had been sanctioned an additional 4.75 TMC for Bengaluru's drinking water requirements.

On the face of it, the Mekedatu project, which is being proposed to cater to Bengaluru's requirements, should not even be a matter of concern to the lower riparian State. But what is complicating the issue is the trust deficit between the two riparian States, as a result of which Tamil Nadu views the

proposal with suspicion for legitimate reasons. The lower riparian State's basic point is that the Cauvery being deficit, no new project is permissible.

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and his colleagues have said that the new dam will benefit Tamil Nadu too as it will serve as a balancing reservoir to regulate the flood flows from the upstream Krishnaraja Sagar and Kabini to the Mettur dam downstream in the lower riparian State.

A tense negotiation

In the last 10-odd years, the Tamil Nadu Assembly has passed, on several occasions, motions against the project.

However, a new element to the contentious matter is the lower riparian State's demand for a tribunal to examine the pros and cons of the project. Though the Tamil Nadu government sent a formal communication on March 4 to the Centre, this was kept under wraps till June 19, the day on which the House adopted the resolution.

The previous Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam government, which took the decision to seek a tribunal for the project, had, for inexplicable reasons, maintained silence and the present Tamilaga Vettri Kahagam government too followed suit till now.

However, the Leader of Opposition and former Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin disclosed it last week in the House and requested Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay to include it in the resolution. Mr Vijay immediately agreed to the request but former Chief Minister and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami pointed out that there was a procedural lapse with regard to the way the amendment was incorporated in the resolution.

When Tamil Nadu had pursued the concept of a tribunal in the past to resolve the basic dispute over the sharing of Cauvery river water, it had done so after attending 23 bilateral or tripartite or multi-stakeholder meetings involving the governments of Karnataka, Kerala, and the Union Territory of Puducherry, besides the Central government. However, in the last 15 years, not even one meeting took place between the two principal States on the Mekedatu issue. Under such circumstances, it is not known whether the Union government will take a sympathetic view of Tamil Nadu's request, as the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act requires the Centre to accept the demand for a tribunal only when it is convinced that the dispute cannot be settled through negotiations.

Even if the idea is acceded to, there is no guarantee that Tamil Nadu will be able to succeed in its plan of scrapping the project.

To safeguard the interests of farmers and ensure that the drinking water requirements of Bengaluru be met, the two States can explore the possibility of building a dam in Rasimanal, which is in Tamil Nadu, for a similar capacity.

ramakrishnan.t@thehindu.co.in

Afghan women are increasingly turning to entrepreneurship

Female labour-force participation has fallen to around 5% while women's university enrolment has dropped from nearly 55,000 students in 2019 to zero

DATA POINT

Devyanshi Bihani

The Taliban's draconian restrictions over the past five years have led to Afghan women facing an unprecedented rollback of rights and freedoms. As universities and many formal workplaces become inaccessible, a growing number of women are turning to small-scale entrepreneurship as one of the few remaining avenues to earn a livelihood. According to World Bank and ILO estimates, female labour-force participation declined from 14.6% in 2021 to 5.2% in 2022 and stood at approximately 5.1% in 2024 and 2025. Male participation remained close to 70% **(Chart 1)**.

Data from Afghanistan's National Statistics and Information Authority shows the scale of the exclusion. In 2019, Afghan universities enrolled 54,861 female students. By 2023-24, that number had fallen to just 102, and by 2024-25 no female students were recorded in any universities. Female admissions followed a similar trajectory, dropping from 16,496 new entrants in 2019 to zero in both 2023-24 and 2024-25. Female graduates also disappeared from the system, falling from 9,937 in 2019 to 67 in 2023-24 and none in 2024-25 **(Chart 2)**. Male enrolment also declined over the same period. UNICEF and UNESCO have attributed the deterioration in educational outcomes to a combination of restrictive policies, chronic underinvestment, recurring humanitarian crisis, widespread learning poverty, and teacher shortages.

These figures reflect the impact of Taliban policies that have barred women and girls from secondary and higher education. Additionally, more than 80% of female media workers lost their jobs when the Taliban returned.

As opportunities in education and formal employment narrowed, many women turned to businesses. Data cited by the Afghan Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry indicates that registered women-owned businesses increased from 2,421 before the restrictions to 9,162 afterward, while estimates of informal women-owned enterprises rose from 52,000 to 1,20,000 **(Chart 3)**. Manufacturing (43%), services (30%) and trade (19%) were the largest sectors, including tailoring, handicrafts, carpet weaving and food processing.

As Afghanistan grapples with economic challenges and international isolation, Taliban officials have framed support for women-led businesses as part of a broader push for economic self-sufficiency. In a *Reuters* interview, acting commerce minister Haji Nooruddin Azizi said, "We always support women investors" and "We will support any item which can help us for self-sufficiency."

While the number of women-owned enterprises has grown, a 2024 UNDP survey of 3,122 women-led SMEs across 18 provinces highlights the challenges facing women entrepreneurs. Only 28% were formally registered and licensed, while nearly two-thirds operated without registration **(Chart 4)**.

The lack of formal registration limits access to markets, finance and opportunities for growth. The strain is evident in the fact that 41% women entrepreneurs reported being in debt. However, only 5% had obtained loans from formal banks; for in order to secure a loan, you need to have a business background, a recommendation letter, and property documents which many Afghan women lack. So they primarily rely on family networks and personal savings to fund their businesses **(Table 1)**.

As universities close their doors to women and their labour force participation remains among the lowest in the world, small businesses have become an economic lifeline for thousands of Afghan women seeking an income.

The last open door

The data for the charts were sourced from World Bank, Afghanistan's National Statistics and Information Authority, Afghan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries and United Nations Development Programme

CHART 1: Gender-wise labour-force participation in Afghanistan before and after the Taliban's return to power in 2021

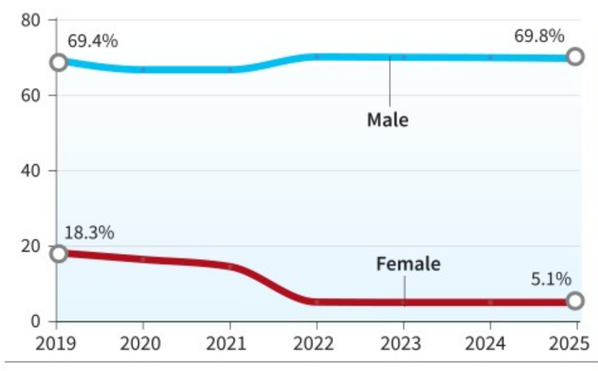


CHART 2: Female participation in Afghanistan's higher education system before and after the Taliban's return to power in 2021

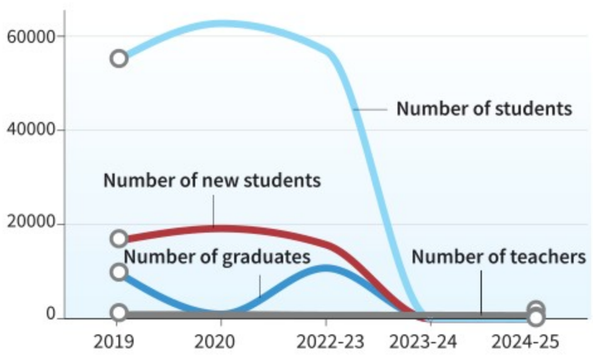
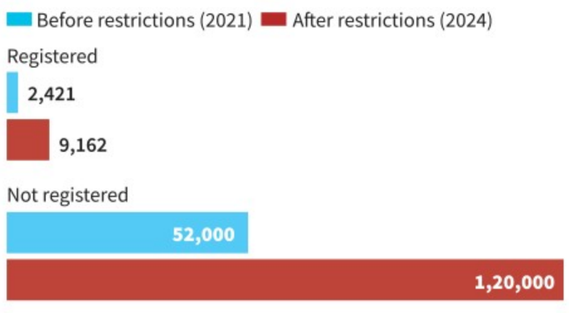


CHART 3: Number of registered and informal women-owned businesses in Afghanistan before and after the Taliban 's return to power in 2021



Manufacturing (43%), services (30%) and trade (19%) were the largest sectors, including tailoring, handicrafts, carpet weaving and food processing. Beauty salons, which once employed 60,000 people, have been banned by the Taliban

CHART 4: Registration status of women-led enterprises as of 2024, as per a UNDP survey

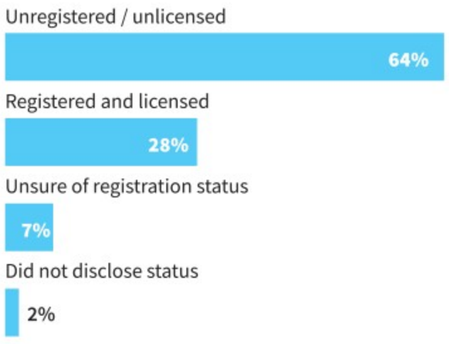


TABLE 1: Sources of financing for women-led small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Afghanistan as of 2024, as per a UNDP survey

Source of loan / financing	Percentage of women-led SMEs
Family	61%
Friends	45%
Other businesses	21%
Formal banks	5%
Remittances from abroad	5%
Microfinance institutions (MFIs)	2%
Community savings groups	2%
Money service providers/ Hawalas	0.30%

Note: Survey respondents could select multiple options. Hence the percentages do not add up to 100%

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 25, 1976

Heavy rain likely along west coast

Madras, June 24: The west coast is likely to receive heavy rain in the next two days. According to a special bulletin issued by the weather office here, a well-marked trough of low pressure has formed in the east Arabian Sea over Lakshadweep and off the Kerala, Karnataka, Goa coast.

A low pressure area also lies over the central and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal off Andhra and Orissa coast.

The southwest monsoon will revive over Kerala and coastal Karnataka in the next 48 hours and widespread rain is expected over Lakshadweep and in Kerala and coastal Karnataka. Isolated heavy rain is likely in the extreme western parts of interior Karnataka during the same period. Squally weather will prevail over Lakshadweep and along and off the Kerala and Karnataka coast during the next two days.

Our Trivandrum correspondent reports:

Conditions are now becoming favourable for the strengthening of the southwest monsoon over Kerala according to a special weather bulletin issued by the Meteorological Centre, Trivandrum.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 25, 1926

Jubilee of the telephone

Rugby, June 25: The jubilee of the telephone is being celebrated today.

At the institution of Electrical Engineers, Sir Oliver Lodge delivered a lecture, which was broadcast, on the history of the development of the telephone. Newspapers pay tributes to the memory of Professor Alexander Graham Bell, who is regarded as "the father of the telephone." The story is retold how Mr. Bell, a native of Edinburgh, married a girl who had the misfortune to be deaf and how he tried to invent an instrument that would enable her to hear. He chanced to discover the machine that enabled one to hear from a long distance. This he patented in America where he and his wife were living. He brought his invention to England in 1877 and England's first telephone company was registered in June of the following year. The first exchange was opened in August, 1879 at Coleman Street in the City of London with fewer than a dozen subscribers.

From Page One

Warehouse collapse kills five in Kolkata

The West Bengal Chief Minister lauded the efforts of local people and the Kolkata Police saying that casualties could have been higher had they not intervened and rescued people immediately after the accident.

Sanjoy Kumar Mukherjee, public relations officer at the SMPA, said that after the accident cranes were mobilised to the site for rescue and debris clearance. He said gas cutter sets, the port's fire brigade units, and ambulance with a medical team have reached the accident site. Estate Division and Port Security teams, and senior officers reached the site immediately for coordination and security, Mr. Mukerjee said.

The Chief Minister, who visited State-run SSKM hospital later in the evening, said that he will announce compensation on the floor of the State Assembly on Thursday. All the deceased were men and one woman worker was among those injured. The Chief Minister said that most of the workers were hired by a labour contractor from Bihar.

Minister for Municipal Affairs Agnimitra Paul and Kolkata Municipal Corporation Commissioner Smita Pandey also reached the accident site and supervised rescue works. The Disaster Management Department of the State government has opened a control room where people can reach out on 8697981070, 033 22143526 and 033 22535185 in relation with the accident at Taratala.

Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra referred to accidents over the past few years in the BJP ruled States and said the West Bengal Chief Minister should not blame the previous government for the accident at Taratala. "Will @BJP4Bengal leaders also dare to speak about the INNUMERABLE disasters and governance failures in @BJP4India ruled states? Or no, even in moments of tragedy, their ONLY priority remains shameless politicisation and desperate blame games. For some people, public suffering is never a moment for empathy, only an opportunity for cheap politics! Old habits die hard, don't they?," the Trinamool posted on social media quoting Ms. Moitra.

'Progress' made in U.S. trade deals, says govt.

The India-U.S. BTA was announced in February 2025 and was to have been completed by September-October that year. The framework for the interim deal was signed in February this year, and the deal itself was to have been signed by April-May.

"The visit marked a key step in ongoing efforts to advance a balanced, mutually beneficial India-U.S. BTA and to finalise an interim deal in line with the joint statement of February 7, 2026," the statement said.

"Both sides noted substantial progress by negotiating teams in recent months and welcomed the momentum from successive technical and ministerial-level engagements," the statement added. "Discussions focused on pathways to conclude an interim agreement as an important milestone toward a comprehensive BTA."

During the meetings, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to an agreement that is balanced, commercially meaningful, and that delivers "tangible benefits" for businesses, farmers, workers, and consumers in both countries.

"Recognising the growing significance of the India-U.S. economic partnership amid evolving global trade dynamics, both sides reiterated their shared goal of expanding bilateral trade, fostering innovation, and building resilient, trusted supply chains," the statement said.

China says it is ready to work with India to enhance mutual trust

Foreign Ministry spokesperson says common understanding reached by leaders of two countries will be implemented and cooperation deepened

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Reset efforts: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in New Delhi. PTI

China is ready to work with India side by side to enhance "mutual trust and dispel doubts", said the spokesperson of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a day after Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and expressed willingness to take the relations forward.

"China stands ready to work with India to implement the important common understandings reached by the leaders of the two countries, continuously enhance mutual trust and dispel doubts, properly handle sensitive issues, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, maintain the positive momentum of China-India relations, and jointly advance our respective modernisation processes," said Lin Jian, spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, on Wednesday.

Earlier, Xu Feihong, Chinese Ambassador to India, said that in the meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Foreign Minister Wang Yi had said, "China and India, as the two largest developing countries" should "play an exemplary role in promoting solidarity and self-reliance among Global South countries".

'Implement consensus'

Mr. Wang's meeting with Mr. Modi took place soon after the visiting delegates who participated in the BRICS National Security Advisers' (NSAs) meeting here on June 22-23, called on Mr. Modi on Tuesday.

"China will continue to support India in fulfilling its responsibilities as the BRICS rotating chair and work with India to promote solid progress in BRICS cooperation," said Ambassador Mr. Xu. He said Mr. Wang had expressed willingness to work with India "to implement the important consensus reached between the leaders of the two countries".

According to a Chinese readout of Tuesday's meeting, Mr. Modi conveyed his greetings to President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang and expressed support for cooperation under the umbrella of BRICS.

Iran invites Modi to Khamenei's official funeral ceremonies

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei was killed in an Israel-U.S. joint attack on Feb. 28

Iran's President Massoud Pezeshkian has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to travel to Tehran to attend the burial ceremonies of the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei who was assassinated in a joint Israel-U.S. attack on February 28, diplomatic sources have told *The Hindu*.

The sources said the invite for Mr. Modi was conveyed to the Ministry of External Affairs on Tuesday though the MEA officials did not clarify whether Mr. Modi would travel for the funeral which will be held between July 3 and 9 and cover multiple cities such as Tehran, Qom and Mashhad.

Iran has announced the ceremonies for the late Supreme Leader will take place in Tehran and Qom from July 5 to 7 while the final ceremony will take place in Mashhad on July 9.

Mr. Modi is expected to visit Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand between July 6 and 11 and there is no official communication on whether the Prime Minister would visit for the official burial of the late Ayatollah.

Iran's Minister of Petroleum Mohsen Paknejad arrived in New Delhi on Wednesday to participate in the meetings related to energy cooperation among BRICS member-states, the Embassy of Iran announced.

"During his visit, Mr. Paknejad is scheduled to hold talks with Indian officials and representatives of the country's energy sector...," the Iran Embassy said.

War and ties

Former Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar had represented India in the official burial ceremony of Iran's then President Ibrahim Raisi who had died in a helicopter crash on May 19, 2024.

Since February, India has seen a disruption in its energy and fertilizer supplies because of the war between U.S.-Israel and Iran which has led to a chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz.

India has maintained communication with all sides to ensure safety for its civilians in the Gulf states. Mr. Modi visited the United Arab Emirates on May 15, and before that, Israel during February 25-26.

Nirav Modi should pay up ₹108 crore to BOI: U.K. court

Press Trust of India
LONDON

Fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi is liable to pay Bank of India (BOI) over $11.5 million (₹108 crore), including accruing interest on a personal loan guarantee, the High Court in London has ruled.

The 55-year-old jeweller, who remains in prison fighting extradition to India in a separate $2 billion (₹18,800 crore) Punjab National Bank fraud case, had disputed the enforceability of the personal guarantee related to a loan to a Dubai-incorporated firm, Firestar Diamond FZE, associated with him.

In a judgment handed down at the London Circuit Commercial Court on Tuesday, Justice Simon Tinkler found in favour of the BOI after a lengthy legal process complicated by paperwork transfer delays within the U.K. jail service.

"The Personal Guarantee is not, as a matter of Indian law, void/unenforceable. Mr. Modi is therefore liable under the Personal Guarantee to the Bank for the principal amount due of $4,105,189.34 [₹38 crore]," the judge said. He also pointed to "the interest on that sum", which adds up to an estimated ₹108 crore until March, with further interest accruing following that date.

'Passport is a travel document, not proof of citizenship'

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The Indian passport is a "travel document" and not a "citizenship document", a senior official of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Wednesday.

The purpose of the Indian passport is to help Indians transit and travel through foreign ports and territories and it should not be compared with other documents that are used to establish citizenship rights, the official said.

Highlighting the importance of passports in connecting the Indian workforce with the global economy, MEA officials said the government will intensify mobility engagements with western nations and Japan in coming months to help citizens get secure employment opportunities in these industrialised economies.

Voter list exclusion

"Passport is a travel document, not a document of citizenship and theoretically speaking that distinguishes passport from other documents. Even though while travelling abroad, passport attests to your nationality, yet it is not a document of your citizenship," a senior official said, in response to a question from *The Hindu* on whether the Indian passport could be used to challenge an exclusion from the voter list through the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls that is currently under way in 16 States.

Passport is to facilitate foreign travel. It must not be compared with documents establishing citizenship, says MEA official.

Another MEA official said that the Indian passport is issued "after a lot of due diligence and we make sure that the person who gets it is actually entitled, and we also base ourselves on documents from several government agencies like the Aadhaar, PAN card." The second official said that the MEA will host a major event on international mobility – the Human Resource Mobility Forum to be held in New Delhi from June 30 to July 1 – that will focus on countries like Italy, Germany, Japan, Russia, and Denmark.

Ethical migration

A large number of recruitment agencies from across the country are expected to participate in the event that will highlight ethical migration and create awareness about how to avoid unscrupulous agents that use illegal means to send Indians to conflict zones and high risk areas.

"We have to demolish the myths that one can go to Italy or Greece using unfair means and then send home lots of money," the official said.

Speaking on the occasion of the 14th Passport Seva Divas, marked on June 24, the official said that 27 countries have given visa-free entry status to Indian passport holders, while 47 countries offer visas on arrival and 66 countries provide electronic-visas (e-visas) to Indian passport holders. The MEA official said that around 10% of Indian passport-holders possess an e-passport, a chip-based document.

There are 545 passport seva kendras across the country catering to the needs of the growing number of passport applicants, and this passport network now covers almost every Lok Sabha constituency.

In addition, one-stop centres for distressed women in the Indian diaspora have been opened in the Gulf countries and Singapore, supported by the Indian community. More such centres are expected to be established in other countries.

"Team MEA reaffirms its commitment to keep making passport services delivery faster, more transparent and accessible..." External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on the occasion of Passport Seva Divas, noting that chip-enabled e-passports and the opening of new passport seva kendras (PSKs) have contributed to ease of travel, helping Indians get global job opportunities.

CRPF officer suspended, 20 others transferred after 'kin protested against CAPF Bill'

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Retired and serving CAPF officials expressed concern about suspension of the DIG-rank officer

Twenty Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officers have been transferred and a Deputy Inspector General (DIG) rank officer has been suspended, allegedly because they or their families voiced their opinions against the Central Armed Police Force (General Administration) Act, 2026.

The legislation was passed by Parliament on April 2 and came into effect on April 9.

Retired and serving officials of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) expressed concern about the suspension of the decorated DIG-rank officer.

'Politically provocative'

On June 10, the officer, posted in Tripura, was informed about a pending enquiry against him for allegedly disseminating "audio/video messages and poster/banner for changing of the Government established by law across social media."

The letter said that an Inspector General-rank officer would probe his WhatsApp account and other encrypted platforms he was active on to enquire about the dissemination of "politically provocative" messages against the government. On June 17, the officer was served a suspension order based on the pending enquiry.

It is learnt that the officer has challenged the suspension, on the grounds that there is no "disciplinary proceeding contemplated or pending" against him as required under the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965.

'Targeted harassment'

Ranbir Singh, the general secretary of the Alliance of All Ex Paramilitary Association said that officers whose families participated in a protest against the CAPF Act at Jantar Mantar in the capital on March 23 and May 6, and at Rajghat on April 9 were being targeted by the CRPF's top brass.

"We want to draw the attention of Home Minister Amit Shah to this targeted harassment of CRPF officers... For the first time in the history of the CRPF, the suspension of a serving DIG without cause has sparked resentment among the paramilitary personnel. Officers are being posted to the North East as a punitive measure," Mr. Singh said.

Anxious relatives search for missing workers after tragedy in Kolkata

Senjuti Sengupta
KOLKATA

Family members of the workers who went missing after the Taratala warehouse collapse on Wednesday frantically searched for them at the site of the accident and in the State-run SSKM Hospital. But for many, the dash to the hospital took them nowhere.

"I learnt about the accident at 3 p.m. and since then I have gone to the spot and to the hospital but have found no trace of my brother Khaleq Sardar. He was working at the site," said a youth who had come from Basanti in the State's South 24 Parganas district.

Another man from the city's Kidderpore area said he had last spoken to his relative on Tuesday night and after learning about the accident he had gone to the hospital and the construction site.

According to the West Bengal government, about 25 persons have been rescued from the site of whom five have died. There is no clarity on the number of people still trapped under the debris.

Against the clock: An injured person being taken to safety after a warehouse under construction collapsed in Kolkata. PTI

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari said attempts are being made to identify the labour contractor. "Most of the workers were brought from Bihar's Munger and adjoining areas," he said.

Mr. Adhikari lauded the efforts of locals who, along with the police, took part in the rescue operations within minutes after the building collapse.

"I could see at least five to six people stuck under the debris screaming for help. Many of them were my neighbours," said Biru Das. Mr. Das, who works in a nearby warehouse, said that he along with others rescued about six people from the rubble. "Of them, one died," he said.

Ujjal Kumar, another local, recalled "a strong tremor like an earthquake" when the structure crashed. "After that, there was a loud noise like an explosion," he said. Mr. Kumar added that he and other workers were resting when the accident occurred and they rushed to the spot to join the rescue efforts.

An eyewitness, Raju, said the construction had been going on for the past six months and it had been only three days since work on laying the concrete roof of the third floor began.

"I knew some people from that godown. But I am not sure whether they escaped or are still trapped. Asgar Khan, the one who got the tender for the construction work, was also probably there when the accident took place," he said.

Sajid, another local, claimed that many of the workers were called in because the roof seemed to be shaking. "Probably the heavy rain damaged the construction. Many workers might have gone there to check it," he said.

NIA takes over investigation into killing of church leaders

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over the probe into the killing of three church leaders in Manipur's Kangpokpi district in May, officials in Imphal said on Wednesday.

Armed miscreants ambushed two vehicles between Kotzin and Kotlen villages, killing three members of the Thadou Baptist Association on May 13. The murders triggered a hostage crisis and a fresh round of ethnic tension between the Kuki and Naga communities.

The case was registered on the day of the ambush at New Keithelmanbi police station in Kangpokpi district.

Officials said the case was re-registered at the NIA's Imphal unit on June 8, three days after the Ministry of Home Affairs issued an order to conduct the probe.

Kharge slams Pradhan for 'terrorist jibe' on students

Students' movement will continue to gain strength, he says and calls for Minister's resignation; party to hold press conferences in 28 cities demanding an overhaul of Indian education system

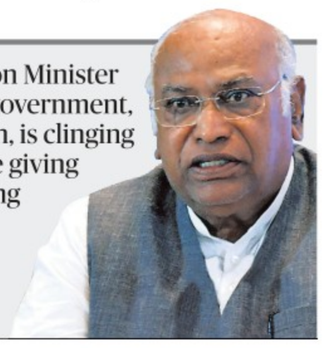
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday hit out at Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan for his reported "terrorist" remark against protesting students, and asserted that the Minister would have to resign.

The Congress president's reference was to a comment by Mr. Pradhan, made during a television interview, in which he referred Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi's interactions with students at Rajasthan's education hub Kota on June 17. He said Mr. Gandhi was trying to "spread terrorism" and referred to the Cockroach Janta Party as "the B team of terrorists". Mr. Pradhan's remarks amounted to calling the protesting students "terrorists", the Congress alleged.

In a post on social media platform X, Mr. Kharge linked the remark to concerns over examination paper leaks and their impact on students. "Ninety paper leaks have occurred, the futures of millions of students have been ruined, 20 children have taken their own lives due to the NEET paper leak, families have been devastated...," he said.

> The Education Minister of the Modi government, Dharmendra Pradhan, is clinging to his chair, and while giving interviews, he is calling the students' echo as that of 'terrorists'
>
> **MALLIKARJUN KHARGE**
> Congress president



'Refused responsibility'

The Congress president alleged that despite the controversies surrounding examination irregularities, Mr. Pradhan had refused to take responsibility. "The Education Minister of the Modi government, Dharmendra Pradhan, is clinging to his chair, and while giving interviews, he is calling the 'students' echo' as that of 'terrorists'," Mr. Kharge said.

He drew a parallel with the Centre's response to earlier protests. "The country has not forgotten that Prime Minister Modi himself, in Parliament, had insultingly labelled the farmer benefactors '*andolan-jeevi*' (living off agitations) and '*parjeevi*' (parasites). Whoever questions this government is called an anti-national," Mr. Kharge said.

Mr. Kharge said the students' movement would continue to gain strength and called for Mr. Pradhan's resignation.

"*Chhatron Ki Goonj* (Congress's 'echo of students' campaign) will echo loudly across the entire country; Modi's Minister Pradhan will have to resign," he said.

The party also announced that it would hold press conferences across 28 cities on Thursday under the banner of "*Chhatron Ki Goonj*".

"Through this campaign, the Indian National Congress demands a comprehensive overhaul of India's education system, beginning with the resignation of Union Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, who epitomises the Modi government's lack of vision and dogmatic approach to education," Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said.

"Over the past 12 years, the RSS-BJP government has only pursued the privatisation, centralisation, and 'sanghification' of education, and done too little to prepare India's youth for the future. The crisis today is not only one of unemployment but also of employability," he said.

Donation theft in Ayodhya, land grab in Mahakal show new Modi model: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday linked the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya with the land acquisition controversy involving Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav in Ujjain, close to the Mahakal Temple.

The party accused the BJP of playing with people's faith for financial and political gain.

Addressing a joint press conference with Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Jitu Patwari, Congress media and publicity wing head Pawan Khera said these developments pointed not only to corruption but also to a betrayal of people's faith.

"Ujjain and Ayodhya are international issues. People's faith is linked to these cities. People are frugal to be able to save and go on pilgrimages. Looting the money, carrying out a theft, is like stabbing people's faith," Mr. Khera said, referring to allegations that huge amounts of donations have been siphoned off by people in the Trust that manages the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

"Donation theft in Ayodhya and land grab in Mahakal, this is the new Modi model," Mr. Patwari said, questioning the "silence" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on both issues.

Seeking action: Youth Congress workers staging a protest over an alleged Ujjain land scam, in Bhopal on Wednesday. PTI

Land grab row

The remarks come amid a controversy triggered by reports that Mr. Yadav's family members and real estate firms linked to them acquired large tracts of land in and around Ujjain after he assumed office in December 2023.

An investigation published this week reported that the family and associated entities purchased at least 137 plots covering about 168 acres, much of it in areas expected to benefit from proposed road projects and land-use changes linked to Ujjain's expansion ahead of the 2028 Simhastha Maha Kumbh.

Mr. Khera said former Congress leader Ashok Chavan, who is now in the BJP, had to resign as Maharashtra Chief Minister over charges that his mother-in-law owned an apartment in the Adarsh Housing Society in Mumbai. "In this matter, no action is expected from Mr. Modi," he said.

AAP under fire over CM 'sacrilege video' row

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

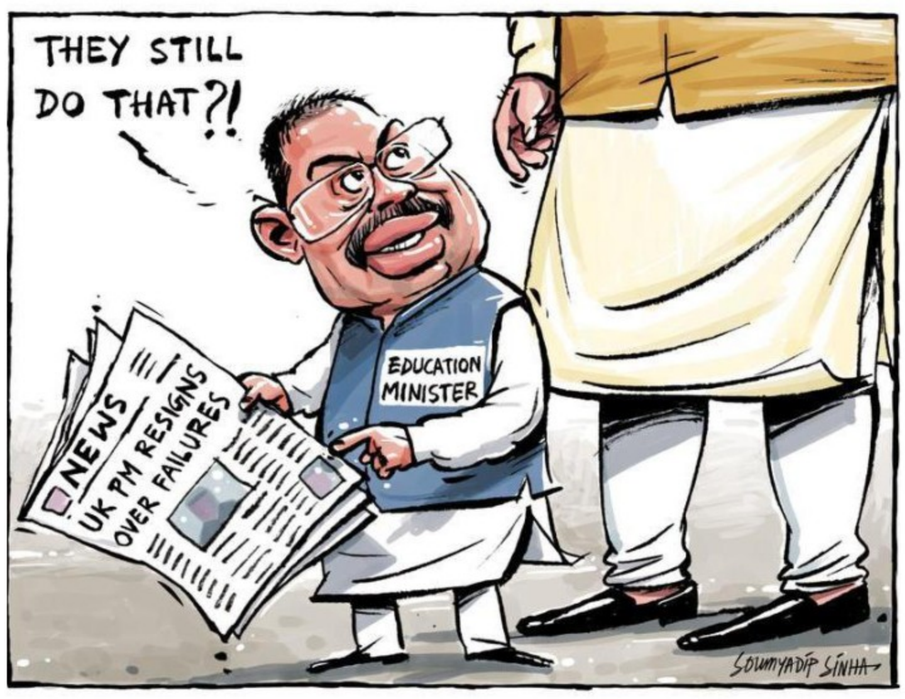
The controversy over a video allegedly linked to actions by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann amounting to sacrilege under a new law and a standoff with the Akal Takht, the highest Sikh temporal seat, has put the Aam Aadmi Party under pressure.

On Wednesday, a day after the Haryana Police arrested two men for allegedly conspiring to prepare forged forensic and cyberanalysis reports in connection with the purported video of Mr. Mann, Opposition parties launched an all-out attack ahead of the State Assembly election in early 2027.

Shiromani Akali Dal leaders demanded the matter be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation for a probe. Punjab Congress leaders demanded Mr. Mann's immediate resignation and the registration of an FIR against him under the new sacrilege law.

Mr. Maan said a fake video had been deliberately created and circulated to defame him.

On the draw



Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs seek copy of rebels' letter

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Two Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs on Wednesday met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and sought a copy of the letter submitted by the party's six rebel MPs who recently announced that had joined the Shiv Sena led by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

The MPs, Anil Desai and Arvind Sawant, also sought to know the demands made by the rebel MPs.

"We had earlier given the Speaker a letter of caveat. He had accordingly called us. We asked him if the rebel MPs had given him any letter. We asked him if they came as a group or as individuals. We told him that you need to inform us. We gave a copy of the Constitution, highlighting the provisions of the Tenth Schedule. A political party can merge if it wants to. But the party has to decide. There was no party meeting. No such proposal was moved by either of the six of them," Mr. Sawant told *The Hindu* after the meeting.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) has questioned the lack of transparency surrounding the entry of the six MPs into the ruling Shiv Sena. It had submitted a letter to the Speaker seeking a hearing in case any group of leaders of their party approaches him to form a separate group. "If anybody goes to meet the Speaker, the information is put out by his office. The photos are shared on his social media handle. There is openness and transparency in the matter. But when it has come to this merger, there is no information about it," a Shiv Sena (UBT) leader said.

Leaders of the Shiv Sena said all the legislative processes had been completed to induct the six MPs into the party.

Anna Hazare warns of stir against RTI amendments

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Civil rights activist Anna Hazare on Wednesday issued an ultimatum to the Maharashtra government calling for the withdrawal of the Maharashtra Right to Information (Amendment) Rules, 2026.

He said a meeting with the Maharashtra Chief Information Commissioner in Ralegan Siddhi was "unsatisfactory". "If they don't withdraw the amendments and if people's interest is jeopardised, I will hit the streets once again," he told presspersons.

Calling for a struggle against the amendments, he expressed dissatisfaction with the State government's policies.

"If the soul of the RTI Act has to be kept alive, a new committee needs to be formed immediately," he said.

BJP imposing vegetarianism in Bengal, says Trinamool

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The West Bengal government's decision to engage the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) for providing cooked meals in schools across the Kolkata Municipal Corporation area, has drawn fire from Opposition parties.

They claim that the move was an attempt to impose vegetarianism by the BJP government.

Trinamool Congress MP Derek O' Brien criticised the move and said it was an attempt to deprive children of nutrition by denying them eggs.

"After the fish eating *tamasha* during the election campaign, the Gujarat Gymkhana finally reveals itself. Throw eggs at rivals. But deprive children of nutrition by taking eggs off from midday meals. Imposing vegetarianism. Bengal rejects this," he said.

ISKCON spokesperson Radharaman Das said the meals would not contain eggs but would instead include ingredients such as paneer, kidney beans, and other vegetarian protein sources. Eggs have always been part of the menu for children in the State.

House panel seeks Ministry report on Great Nicobar Project

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee, K.C. Venugopal, has sought a report from the Union Home Ministry on the Great Nicobar Project.

The Congress has accused the government of imperilling the fragile Nicobar islands ecosystem for commercial purposes.

The PAC was meeting to deliberate the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report on the "establishment and functioning of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Institute of Medical Sciences".

During his concluding remarks, Mr. Venugopal flagged the Great Nicobar Project, pointing to the rising panic among the residents there as 1.5 crore trees are slated to be felled to make way for the project. He further pointed out, sources said, that the naval base *INS Baaz* was not given additional land for its expansion; and the government was exploiting this fragile ecology for commercial activities. Congress MP Amar Singh also backed Mr. Venugopal, detailing the implications of the project, which the government, he said, was not accounting for. Sources said BJP MP Anurag Singh Thakur interceded to point out that this issue was beyond the agenda of the meeting.

K. C. Venugopal

Mr. Venugopal agreed, though he directed Home Secretary Govind Mohan to submit a comprehensive report detailing all aspects of the project.

On the listed subject of the day, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Institute of Medical Sciences, the panel pointed out there was a massive funding deficit and indefinite delay in completing the civil construction.

The CAG report has also flagged deficiencies in equipment and patient care. The Home Ministry shifted the blame for these deficiencies to the Union Health Ministry.

इण्डियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक
Indian Overseas Bank
Information Technology Department
Central Office: 763, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002

Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:

GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL - SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND OPERATIONALISATION OF VIDEO CONFERENCE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENDPOINTS

BID NO: GEM/2026/B/ 7697273 DATED 22.06.2026

The Above GEM Tender document is also available and can be downloaded from the following websites **www.iob.bank.in** & **www.gem.gov.in** For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website **www.gem.gov.in**

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LTD.
VIDYUT SOUDHA, GUNADALA, VIJAYAWADA-520 004.

Notification for the post of Assistant Executive Engineer (Electrical/ Mechanical/ Electronics), Assistant Executive Engineer (Civil)

APGENCO invites applications to fill the posts of Assistant Executive Engineer (Electrical/ Mechanical/ Electronics) - 80 Nos, Assistant Executive Engineer (Civil)- 20 Nos. The detailed Notification regarding Educational Qualification, Age, Date of uploading of applications through online and last date of submission of application etc., will be available on APGENCO website **https://apgenco.gov.in** and **https://apvidyutrecruitment.apcfss.in**.

P. PULLA REDDY
MANAGING DIRECTOR (FAC)

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Delhi Transco Ltd, a Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking, invites online tender for the work:

Tender No.T25R220484: Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 400/220/66kV GIS Tikrikhurd Sub-Station with complete civil works & automation on Turnkey Basis.

For complete details of the tender please visit following websites :- **https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in** (Tender ID No. 2026_DTL_294145_1) and **www.dtl.gov.in** with Unique No. DTL-0060-240626

Last date for bid submission: **18.08.2026 at 01.30 P.M.**

All Corrigendum/Addendum/ Amendments/ Date of Extension/ Clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

ANDHRA PRADESH CENTRAL POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
Corporate Office, Vidyut Nilayam, Beside Vidyut Soudha, Gunadala, Vijayawada - 520004.

APCPDCL invites applications from the eligible candidate for filling up of posts of **Assistant Executive Engineer(Electrical)-56 nos., Assistant Executive Engineer(Civil)-3 nos, Assistant Executive Engineer(Telecom)-1 no.** For detailed Notification along with breakup of vacancies etc., visit APCPDCL website: **https://www.apcpdcl.in** and **https://apvidyutrecruitment.apcfss.in**

Place: Vijayawada, Date : 24.06.2026 **Sd/- Chairman and Managing Director**

EASTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF A.P. LTD
Corporate Office, P&T Colony, Seethammadhara, Visakhapatnam-530 013.

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

APEPDCL invites applications from the eligible candidates for filling up of posts of **Assistant Executive Engineer (Electrical)-128, Assistant Executive Engineer (Civil)-4, and Assistant Executive Engineer (Telecom)-3.** For detailed notification along with break-up of vacancies etc., visit APEPDCL website **https://apeasternpower.com** & **https://apvidyutrecruitment.apcfss.in**

Sd/-
Place: Visakhapatnam, Date: 25-06-2026. Advt-28 **Chairman & Managing Director**

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF A.P. LIMITED
Corporate office: H.No.19-13-65/A, Srinivasapuram, Tiruchanoor Road, Tirupati-517503

NOTIFICATION FOR THE POST OF ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (ELECTRICAL), ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (CIVIL) & ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (TELECOM)

APSPDCL invites applications to fill the posts of **Assistant Executive Engineers (Electrical) -125 Nos. (including 1 No. Backlog), Assistant Executive Engineers (Civil) -6 Nos. and Assistant Executive Engineers (Telecom)-4 Nos.** The detailed notification regarding educational qualification, age, date of uploading of applications through online and last date of submission of applications etc., will be available on APSPDCL website **http://apspdcl.in** and **http://apvidyutrecruitment.apcfss.in**

Place: Tirupati, Date: 25.06.2026 **CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR**

Kalyan Singh Super Speciality Cancer Institute
C.G. City, Sultanpur Road, Lucknow-(226002)
Website: https://cancerinstitute.edu.in, Email: jdmm.sscih@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM

Reference to GeM Bid No. GEM/2026/B/7592452 dated 02.06.2026

Corrigendum regarding amendments in eligibility criteria, technical and operational conditions, scope of work, commencement provisions, PET-CT service requirements, applicable charges and other terms & conditions of the PET-CT Services Bid. Detailed corrigendum may be reviewed on the Institute website and **GeM Portal**.

Advt No:- KSSSCI/EOI-03/2026-27 **DIRECTOR**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, DHENKANAL (R&B) DIVISION, DHENKANAL
Letter no. 4171, Dt.23.06.26
Email ID - eedklpwd@gmail.com

Cancellation of Bid Identification-SE-DKL-No.08 of 2026-27

The tender received for the following 6(Six) Nos Electrical works in response to E-Procurement Notice No-08/2026-27 with Bid Identification No- **SEDKL-No.08 of 2026-27** is hereby cancelled due to administrative reason and fresh tender will be invited.

1. Installation of Aerosol Based Extinguisher and Lightning Protection at 4th floor, 5th floor and 6th floor and Lightning Protection at DHH Dhenkanal **(Tender ID : 2026_EICCL_129697_1)** .
2. Installation of Aerosol Based Extinguisher at Blood Bank, Ticket Counter, Patient Attendance Rest Shed and Diarrhea Ward and Lightning Protection of DHH Dhenkanal **(Tender ID: 2026_EICCL _129697_5).**
3. Installation of Aerosol Based Extinguisher and Lightning Protection at CHC, Beltikiri of Dhenkanal **(Tender ID : 2026_ EICCL _129697_3)** .
4. Installation of Aerosol Based Extinguisher and lightening protection at CHC Parjang **(Tender ID : 2026_EI CCL _129697_2)** .
5. Installation of Aerosol Based Extinguisher and Lightning Protection at SDH Hindol of Dhenkanal for the year **(Tender ID 2026_EICCL_129697_4)** .
6. Installation of Aerosol Based Extinguisher Transformer & DG, LT Panel, Fire Panel, Main Panel and Feeder Panel of DHH Dhenkanal **(Tender ID : 2026 _EICCL_129697_6)** .

Superintending Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Division, Dhenkanal.
34001/387/2627 OIPR-34001/34016/1/26-27/0014

DIRECTORATE OF AYUSH
(Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy)
Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Odisha
Heads of Department Building, 3rd Floor, (Annex), Unit-5, Bhubaneswar-751001
Tel: 0674-2394577, FAX:06742391180, Email: directorayushodisha@gmail.com, Web:https://ayush.odisha.gov.in

EOI Ref. 7118 /DAYUSH, Dated. 24.06.2026

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of Interest (EOI) are invited from eligible AYUSH Approved Drugs Testing Laboratories under Rule 160- A to J of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945 read with the Ministry of AYUSH Letter No. T-14020/2/2022-DCC, Dtd. 21.07.2022 for test/ analysis of AYUSH drugs (Ayurvedic & Homoeopathic) procured by the Directorate of AYUSH, Odisha.

The EOI document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, EMDs, pre-qualification criteria and terms & conditions etc. are available in the website of Directorate of AYUSH, Odisha i.e. **https://ayush.odisha.gov.in** . The prospective bidders are requested to visit the website of Directorate of AYUSH for downloading the aforesaid EOI documents as well as for any published notice/ corrigendum etc. against the EOI from time to time. The EOI Authority reserves the right to accept/ reject/sought clarification any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Director, AYUSH, Odisha
10001/305/2627 OIPR-10001/10056/1/26-27/0007

INBRIEF

Farmer group protests against India-U.S. trade deal in Punjab

Farmers and farm labourers under the banner of the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha on Wednesday staged demonstrations in Punjab against the proposed India-U.S. trade deal, alleging that the agreement could adversely impact not just farmers, but labourers, shopkeepers, and the youth. Protests were held at several places across 21 districts of Punjab. "The objective of the protest was to democratically register opposition and bring the truth about the dangerous consequences of this agreement to the people of the country," Sarwan Singh Pandher, senior KMM leader, said.

India and UAE explore ways to strengthen defence ties

India and the UAE reviewed progress made under their Strategic Defence Partnership Framework on Wednesday. The meeting, held in New Delhi, was co-chaired by Joint Secretary (International Cooperation) Amitabh Prasad and UAE Staff Brigadier Jamal Ebrahim Mohamed Ebrahim Almar-Zooqi. Both sides explored ways to deepen collaboration in defence manufacturing, foster innovation, and strengthen security cooperation in the maritime domain. According to sources, India is in talks with the UAE to export some of its flagship military platforms, including the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.

Fiancée, lover held in Ketan Agarwal murder case

Chinmay Gaikwad
PUNE

The Pune Rural Police have arrested Ketan Agarwal's fiancée Siya Goyal and her lover Chetan Chaudhary in connection with his murder at Lohagad Fort. However, investigators remain uncertain about which of the two accused physically pushed Ketan from the cliff.

The death of Ketan Agarwal at Lohagad Fort on June 18, initially registered as an accidental fall, has been reclassified as a pre-planned murder following a police investigation. The investigation has revealed that the accused had conducted reconnaissance of the location twice before the incident.

The police investigation has established that Siya and Chetan allegedly acted in concert to kill Ketan. However, investigators have not determined whether Siya, who was walking alongside Ketan at the time of the incident, allegedly pushed him, or whether Chetan, who was waiting at the location, allegedly delivered the fatal push.

The police are examining forensic evidence and witness statements to ascertain this detail.

Heavy rain triggers landslides, flash flood in Arunachal Pradesh

One person killed, four reported missing as six districts remain cut off; Assam issues a high alert in districts downstream of the affected areas

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

One person was killed and four were reported missing after heavy rain triggered flash floods and landslides in Arunachal Pradesh, officials in Keyi Panyor district said on Wednesday. Six districts remained cut off as road connectivity was disrupted in several areas.

The flash floods followed heavy rain on Tuesday night, affecting areas in and around the public sector North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd. (NEEPCO) project site in Yazali Circle in the district. Nearly 50 houses were damaged.

Angad Mehta, Superintendent of Police, Keyi Panyor, said the body of 35-year-old Nirmala Gupta, a teacher at the NEEPCO's Vivekananda Kendriya Vidyalaya, was recovered after hours of search. "The rescue operation with inflatable craft will continue on Thursday, " he told *The Hindu*, adding that the Indian Air Force carried out sorties to assess the damage and locate survivors.

Debris scattered across an area after flash floods near the NEEPCO project colony in Arunachal Pradesh on Wednesday. PTI

Earlier, a statement issued by the district police said the "monsoon-related disruptions" had cut off large parts of the district and five others – Kamle, Kra Daadi, Kurung Kumey, Lower Subansiri, and Upper Subansiri.

While major landslides have been reported from several stretches on key highways, a strategic bridge connecting two other districts, East Kameng and Pakke Kessang, was damaged. "Personnel of the Border Roads Organisation and the Highway Department have been engaged to expedite restoration work," Mr. Mehta said.

Assam on alert

The Assam government has issued a high alert in the districts downstream of the areas hit by "extremely heavy rainfall and flash floods" in Arunachal Pradesh.

NMC will phase out PG diploma medical courses from 2027-28

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The move, according to the NMC, is intended to standardise PG medical education

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has announced the final phasing out of postgraduate diploma courses, stating that 2026-27 will be the last academic year for admission to these programmes. It has now directed all medical colleges, institutions, and universities to accordingly comply with the procedures.

The latest order issued this week says that from 2027-28, specialist training in medical colleges will be offered only through MD and MS degree programmes, and institutions are supposed to convert existing diploma seats into degree seats.

Standardisation bid

Medical colleges have been asked to apply for conversion through the Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB). The move, according to the NMC, is intended to standardise postgraduate medical education, improve the quality and recognition of specialist training, align qualifications with current educational standards, and make better use of existing infrastructure in medical colleges.

Traditional diplomas, including diploma in otorhinolaryngology (ENT), ophthalmology, dermatology, venereology and leprosy, tuberculosis and chest diseases, and public health and medical radiotherapy are typically two years long, compared with the three-year MD or MS degree programmes, and played an important role in producing specialists for district hospitals and smaller towns.

"We will have to assess the impact of the move on rural and district-level specialist availability. Traditional diplomas provided a quicker route to specialist training and supplied many doctors to smaller hospitals. The policy question now is whether converting all seats to MD/MS will improve quality without reducing the number of specialists available outside major cities," said a health expert.

Man killed on Mumbai local train following altercation

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

A 22-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death by a co-passenger on a Mumbai local train during an argument over whether the doors should be kept open amid the rain, officials said on Wednesday.

The incident took place inside a first-class compartment on Tuesday. The accused, identified as Roshan Suvarna, was arrested hours after the incident.

The police said Suvarna stabbed Mayank Lohar following an altercation. One of them wanted the doors to be kept open, while the other objected, citing the rain. Lohar suffered injuries and collapsed, while Suvarna jumped off the train at Borivali station before it came to a halt and ran away. The Government Railway Police have registered a case of murder.

SC had agreed that right to associate is no *carte blanche* for foreign funds

NEWS ANALYSIS

The Rules have introduced tougher limits on NGOs to receive foreign donations

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2026, notified by the Union Home Ministry on June 22, has introduced tougher limits on NGOs to receive foreign donations.

These amendments, and the ones before them, source their legality from the Centre's argument in the Supreme Court that the freedom to form associations or engage in the "business" of charity does not include a right to receive unbridled foreign funds or to use the money outside "permissible activities".

Among other changes, Rule 9(1B) mandates that certificates of registration of NGOs must specify the "purpose or purposes and the States or Union Territories".

The Rules limit NGOs to specific and stated spheres of activity, which exclude proselytisation, and geographical bounds.

SC judgments

The government's sweeping powers to regulate foreign donations have been blessed by the Supreme Court in multiple judgments. A three-judge Bench in *Noel Harper versus Union of India* in April 2022 declared that "no one can be heard to claim a vested right to accept foreign donation, much less an absolute right".

The court had disapproved of the tendency to seek funds abroad, saying it gave an impression that the nation was incapable of looking after its own needs.

A March 2020 decision of the Supreme Court in *Indian Social Action Forum (INSAF) versus Union of India* had agreed with the Centre that the "regulation of acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution is for the purpose of protecting national interest". The court had, however, in this case, called for a "balance" between the law's objective and the rights of the voluntary organisations to access foreign funds. The *INSAF* judgment declared that only associations which play a role in active or party politics were barred from accessing foreign funds.

The government has argued in court that the FCRA, its Rules, and amendments were meant to regulate the manner of doing business, more importantly, concerning foreign contributions. The FCRA did not intend to stop charitable work. It has argued that the regulatory regime did not hurt the fundamental rights of individuals to form associations or practice a profession or carry on an occupation, trade or business under Article 19(1)(c) and Article 19(1)(g), respectively, of the Constitution.

The Centre has referred to Article 19(4) to demonstrate that it could frame laws to reasonably restrict the fundamental freedom to form associations under Article 19(1)(c) in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India or to protect public order or morality. Similarly, Article 19(6) allowed the government to impose reasonable fetters on the right to trade, business, occupation available under Article 19(1)(g) if the State could show these freedoms were against public interest.

Top court backs lower cut-off in NEET-super speciality for admission of govt. doctors

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the cut-off or qualifying percentile for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-super speciality (NEET-SS) seats for in-service government doctors in States must be reduced for they serve the public and study at the same time.

A Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi said the access for in-service government doctors to speciality medical courses must become easier as their healing skills would not be used for personal profit but for the benefit of the larger public.

The court made the oral observations while hearing a petition filed by the Tamil Nadu Medical Officers' Association, represented by senior advocate P. Wilson.

The petition challenged the "premature diversion" of 152 vacant super-speciality seats earmarked for in-service government doctors in Tamil Nadu to the all-India quota. It sought protection of the State's in-service reservation policy, pending a final decision on the reduction of the NEET-SS qualifying percentile.

"If you just take away super-speciality seats and transfer to the all-India quota, how will the State doctors benefit? They work for the people of the State. They work in State government hospitals. The seats were earmarked for them to enable them to achieve greater skills to heal the public," Justice Nagarathna said.

In-service government doctors must get a lower cut-off, the judge said. "Unlike someone who can sit at home and study, the government doctors are working and studying. They are an essential part of the public health infrastructure... The qualifying percentile has to be reduced for them. If you take seats away from the very people serving public health, how would that help the States?" she said.

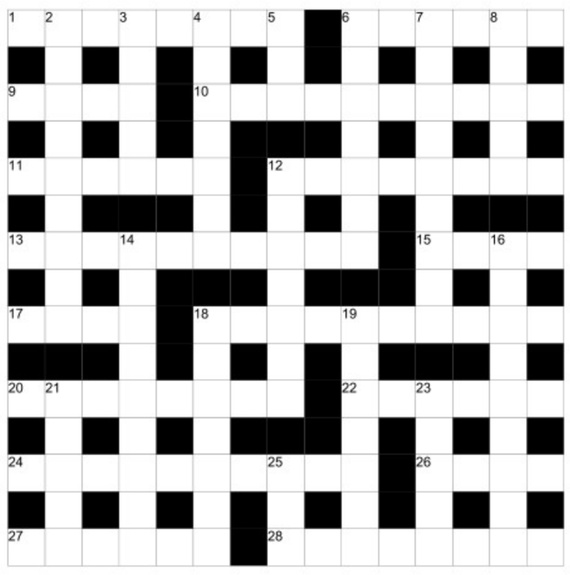
The court issued notice to the Union government, the Director-General of Health Services, the National Medical Council, the State of Tamil Nadu, the Medical Counselling Committee, and other respondents.

TH CROSSWORD + 14829

(set by Gussalufz)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

1. Workers laid off? Tad fishy (3,5)
6. Ignore outrageous abyss next to eastern edge of camp (4,2)
9. The two of us texted for dinner options? (4)
10. Bali trek is tailor-made for rugged two-wheelers (5,5)
11. Straight storyteller capturing fringes of lesbian lore (6)
12. Detective probing American dude's murder (8)
13. Om: "I bit mice, dubiously imitating nature" (10)
15. Gussalufz accompanying gangster for lunch? (4)
17. Unchanged support after leader's ouster (2,2)
18. Son, sleep long on ship, for energy (10)
20. Antelope ecosystem buckled after all-round grazing (8)
22. Spicy stew leads to rectal agony (painful inflammation) (6)
24. Young abstainers, taking off clothes, give up and loudly dance on ecstasy (4,2,4)
26. Head priest dined (4)
27. Party offering to preserve copy (6)
28. Grasshoppers returned regularly, used midday attacks (8)

DOWN

2. Rampant tantrum and rage in resort, for starters (9)
3. A brute, lacking limits in behaviour, goes after small fry (5)
4. Acting in period features (international) (7)
5. Half of trailer cut for interval (3)
6. European with microphone, offering contentious argument (7)
7. Train workers to crawl through hairy mews with caution, ultimately (9)
8. *Badaam* at first, then take paratha? (5)
12. Ah, turning pitch, where some bowlers might be rested (7)
14. Indian state in upheaval around healthcare staff cut: news outlets (4,5)
16. Like the middle of hamburger slices - seasoned and battered (9)
18. Very upset, not right dish (7)
19. A fine, extremely encyclopedic *Essence of Anatomy* textbook (7)
21. ChatGPT, possibly possessed by craftiness, goes overboard; this might go over one's head (5)
23. Road-racing? A pedestrian crossing sides stared in shock (5)
25. Steep drop terminal for Christmas tree (3)

SUDOKU

						9		
	4	3	1					
	1	6		8	3			
5	2			9				6
			6		5			
6				7			3	8
			5	3		1	2	
					4	8	7	
		7						

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

No.SS6922 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	1	2	3	8	5	9	6	7
8	5	6	2	7	9	4	1	3
3	9	7	6	1	4	5	2	8
5	6	8	7	4	1	2	3	9
7	3	4	8	9	2	6	5	1
9	2	1	5	6	3	7	8	4
1	7	5	4	2	8	3	9	6
6	8	3	9	5	7	1	4	2
2	4	9	1	3	6	8	7	5

FAITH

Rama punishes Sugreeva

Rama told Sugreeva that He would kill Vaali. Encouraged by Rama's words, Sugreeva fought with Vaali. But Rama did not kill Vaali and Sugreeva was beaten up by his brother Vaali. When Sugreeva asked Rama why He had let him down, Rama replied He was afraid that He might kill the wrong brother by mistake, since both looked alike. This, obviously, was just an excuse. Could the Supreme One not find the difference? Rama wanted Sugreeva to be beaten by Vaali before going to his rescue. There was a reason for this, said Navalpakkam Vasudevachariar in a discourse.

Rama would never tolerate His devotees being slighted. Sugreeva had treated Lakshmana disrespectfully. He would ignore Lakshmana and speak to Rama directly, without involving Lakshmana in the conversation. So, Rama felt that Sugreeva deserved a beating at Vaali's hands. Eventually, He did keep His promise and killed Vaali, but initially He let Sugreeva be defeated by Vaali. Rama told Sugreeva to go and challenge Vaali to a second fight. This time Rama said He would kill him. Sugreeva challenged Vaali to come out and fight again. Vaali's wife Tara warned her husband not to respond to the challenge. She asked him to give up his anger and to act wisely. He had just defeated Sugreeva, but the latter was back wanting to fight again. Something must have changed since the last fight. Tara thought Sugreeva's challenge was suspicious. She felt he had some support. She had heard of two men from Ayodhya who were with Sugreeva. She said he must have taken their help. So, it would be dangerous for Vaali to agree to this fight. But Vaali ignored Tara's warnings and was killed by Rama.

INBRIEF

Flipkart Minutes, Amazon Now scale up operations

The quick commerce race in India has intensified with Amazon and Flipkart scaling up their instant delivery services, Amazon Now and Flipkart Minutes, respectively. The expansion could heighten the competition in a market currently led by players such as Zomato, Swiggy, Zepto and Big Basket among others. Amazon announced its plans to scale Amazon Now to customers in more than 300 cities across the country, while Flipkart Minutes, the quick commerce offering from Flipkart, has scaled to 1,000 micro fulfilment centres across 130 cities in under two years after the launch of the service in August 2024, according to the company.

ISP to be released with 60-day lag with base year 2024-25

The new index measuring the output of the country's services industry, with 2024-25 as the base year, will be released each month with a 60-day lag, the statistics ministry said in a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) on Wednesday. The first-ever Index of Services Production (ISP) for April 2026 will be announced on July 14. The subsequent numbers will be released on the 29th day (or next working day in case of a holiday) of every month, according to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). As a counterpart of the IIP (Index of Industrial Production), which measures the economic growth of the industrial sector, ISP will be a new macroeconomic indicator to measure short-term changes in the growth of the services sector, the ministry said in a statement. The conceptual and methodological framework for compiling ISP was finalised in consultation with a technical advisory committee (TAC), which was constituted in May 2025 and headed by Debjani Ghosh of government think tank NITI Aayog. PTI

'Investors may move to safer bets on structural challenges'

Economists vocal on rising concerns of structural challenges in the process of economic growth and concentrated stock ownership in higher risk small and mid-cap stocks by retail investors

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

It will be a safer decision to invest in FMCG, pharma, IT and telecom stocks given their historical performance at a time when India is set to face structural challenges to its growth story, experts at Ambit Institutional Equities opined.

Further, bank, cement and IT stocks are tactical plays, the experts continued. The call assumes importance as economists have become vocal about rising concerns of structural challenges in the process of economic growth and concentrated stock ownership in higher risk small and mid-cap stocks by retail investors.

Stock market concentration is expected to increase further as small and mid cap stocks are trading at higher prices than their earnings, signifying a downward risk, said Bharat Arora, Director of Strategy research at Ambit.

Reality bites: Consumption demand is uneven across households, government balance sheet lacks space for fiscal consolidation. FILE

Indian economy's structural challenges remain even as global uncertainties subside, according to analysts. "We argue that India may be trapped in a "low equilibrium" growth path, where official growth figures overstate underlying economic strength, while weak consumption, slowing productivity, and limited job creation leave the economy vulnerable to external shocks and rising stagflation risks," Dhananjay Sinha, CEO and Head of Institutional Equities at Systematix Group said in a research note.

The Indian economy has seen among the worst bouts of capital repatriation, with foreign institutional investors selling more than ₹2.8 lakh crore in 2026, as earnings of the companies do not justify the prices and their returns in dollars are in lower single digits.

Uneven demand

Consumption demand is uneven across households and the government balance sheet lacks space for fiscal consolidation, said Swayamsiddha Panda, Economist at Ambit Institutional Equities.

Post-pandemic consumption boomed on formal hiring and credit and that engine has slowed now, she added.

"Without addressing the income crisis, reviving broad-based private investment, and bridging the organised-informal divide, India risks remaining trapped in a low growth equilibrium, ill-equipped for the shocks ahead. The time for denial is over; the ground realities demand decisive action," the Systematix report stated.

Goyal to visit U.K. to review preparedness for trade deal roll-out

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Goyal will hold a meeting with Peter Kyle, U.K.'s Secretary of State for Business and Trade

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal will travel to the United Kingdom from June 25-27 to meet his U.K. counterpart and review the preparedness of both countries for the implementation of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and its companion Double Contribution Convention (DCC) on July 15.

During the visit, the Ministry of Commerce said in a statement on Wednesday, Mr. Goyal will hold a high-level bilateral meeting with Peter Kyle, the U.K.'s Secretary of State for Business and Trade.

"The engagement marks an important step towards the operationalisation of the agreements and the strengthening of the economic partnership between the two countries," the Commerce Ministry statement said.

"The bilateral discussions will focus on aligning regulatory roadmaps, streamlining cross-border customs coordination and finalising administrative mechanisms to facilitate the smooth implementation of CETA and the DCC," it added.

The Ministers will also review preparedness for the implementation of the CETA's tariff liberalisation commitments and the operational roadmap for the DCC.

"The two sides will further discuss the operationalisation of mutual market access commitments across key services sectors and review measures aimed at strengthening bilateral trade and investment ties," the statement said.

Adani to either outsource non-core activities or move to GCCs

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The Adani Group is taking three foundational steps to build the organisation that will execute its vision over the next decade, including moving non-core activities to its Global Capacity Centres (GCCs) or third parties, Chairman Gautam Adani said while addressing shareholders at Adani Enterprises Ltd.'s AGM on Wednesday.

"Firstly, we are simplifying the way we work. We are putting in place a three-layer structure across both our headquarters and our sites to reduce bureaucracy, sharpen accountability and bring decisions closer to execution," he said.

Second, the Group will change the way it works with contractors.

Thirdly, the Group is placing worker dignity at the heart of its transformation.

"Across our own and contractor workforce of nearly 4 lakh people, almost 85% are people who work on the ground at our sites. They are the people who turn our plans into reality. And we are committed to ensuring that every worker is treated with dignity," he emphasised.

"This means clean living conditions, hygienic food, access to medical support, safe working environments and fair wages paid on time," Mr. Adani added.

Commenting on FY25-26, he said during the year the Group made a record capital investment of more than ₹1.5 lakh crore in hard infrastructure.

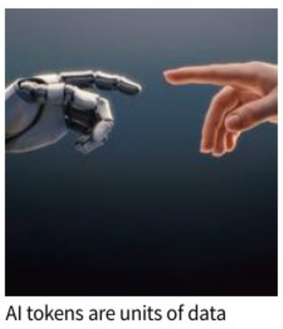
"To put that in perspective, this represented over 30% of India's total new private-sector capital expenditure for the year," Mr. Adani said.

He said the Group was building a data centre platform targeting 3 GW capacity by 2030. Adani Power, with a capex of ₹2 lakh crore, was targeting 45 GW thermal capacity by FY32.

In nuclear energy via Adani Atomic Energy, the Group plans 10 GW capacity by 2035.

'AI coding costs to cross developer pay'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



AI tokens are units of data processed by gen-AI models.

By 2028, AI coding costs will cross average developer's salary on rising large language model (LLM) token consumption and the shift to consumption-based licensing models, forecast Gartner, a Stanford-based business and technology insights company.

AI tokens are units of data processed by generative AI models and token use directly impacts the cost of AI coding tools, particularly under consumption-based pricing structures.

Nitish Tyagi, Sr. Principal Analyst at Gartner said, "Organisations are rapidly moving from experimentation to scaled deployment of AI coding agents, but many are underestimating the financial impact of rising token consumption."

Token discipline would not emerge via developer choice alone as they tend to optimise for speed and convenience over cost efficiency, he said adding, "Without a governed engineering operating model, costs can rise faster than the productivity gains these tools are designed to deliver." Beyond pricing, how AI coding agents are used within firms, is further driving cost pressures.

BHIM UPI to offer financial products

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The platform had processed transactions worth ₹26,952 crore in May 2026

From credit cards, loans, investments and over time insurance, a bouquet of financial products is planned to be offered on BHIM payments app, NPCI BHIM Services (NBSL) MD-CEO Lalitha Nataraj said.

"We have partnered with multiple banks to distribute credit cards and working with some of the NBFCs [for loans]. Also working with banks for national pension schemes. Insurance and investments [offerings] will follow little later," she told the meida.

Since its introduction in 2016 the app has undergone revamps and sported new features, BHIM 3.0 roll out in 2025 being the last, Ms.Nataraj said.

NBSL is also actively evaluating integrating its app in the mobile apps of banks. It has made a beginning with Canara Bank and is in talks with at least one more public sector lender as well as a private bank, she said. Banks stood to benefit from new features, updated infrastructure and technology via the integration while users get to experience faster UPI payments, she added.

The monthly transaction volumes via BHIM rose from 79.64 million in June 2025 to 244 million in May 2026.

The platform processed transactions worth ₹26,952 crore in May 2026.

businessline's MSME meet starts today

BL Bureau
HYDERABAD

To honour the achievements of micro, small and medium enterprises, businessline is organising its fifth annual MSME Conclave in Bengaluru on June 25 and Coimbatore on June 27. The two-city event will highlight the sector's crucial role in India's economic development.

World MSME Day takes place globally every June 27. The event celebrates small businesses, showcases their economic contributions, and advocates for their sustainable growth.

The first event at Bengaluru, co-powered by the Central Bank of India, will feature two power-packed panel discussions – one on 'ESDM - From Vendors to Value Creators' and the other on 'Talent Skilling and Labour Challenges' – and a fireside chat.

At the Bengaluru Conclave, Sharanaprakash Rudrappa Patil, Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development of Karnataka, will be the Chief Guest. The guest Of honour is B.V. Naidu, chairman, Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM).

The first panel, 'ESDM - From Vendors to Value Creators', will feature Ashok Chandak, President, IESA; Sachin Dhruva Naik, Founder & CEO, Cuzor Labs; B.S. Srinivasan, Managing Partner, Viprof Electronics; and Sonam Motwani, Founder and CEO, Karkhana.io. The session will be moderated by Venkatesha Babu (Resident Editor, *The Hindu businessline)*.

The second panel on 'Talent Skilling and Labour Challenges' will have Rakesh Patil, Co-Founder and CTO, Beyond Appliances; Kartik Narayan, CEO, Apna Co; Nitin Dave, CEO, Staffing Solutions, Quess Corp; and Nagaraju S, Council Member, Panel Chairman, Labour Law, KASSIA, Synergy Punching (Promoter and Director). The session will be moderated by Bharat Kumar (Digital Editor, *The Hindu businessline*).

The fireside chat with Satish Kumar T, Chairman & Managing Director, Milky Mist will be hosted by Raghuvir Srinivasan, Editor, *The Hindu businessline*. The past four years too, on MSME Day, *businessline* had hosted similar conclaves for MSMEs, which saw the participation of many from the sector. These enterprises play a vital role in the Indian economy.

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Delhi Transco Ltd, a Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking, invites online tender for the work:

Tender No.T25R220481: Conversion of existing 220/33/11kV AIS into 400/220/33 Kv GIS Gopalpur along with augmentation of 66 kV GIS with Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 400/220/33kV GIS with complete civil works & automation of Turnkey Basis.

For complete details of the tender please visit following websites :-

https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in (Tender ID No. 2026_DTL_294096_1) and **www.dtl.gov.in** with Unique No. DTL-0058-240626

Last date for bid submission: **12.08.2026 at 01.30 P.M.**

All Corrigendum/Addendum/ Amendments/ Date of Extension/ Clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala)
THYCAUD P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695014
Tele:0471-2945646, 2945600
website: www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, e-mail: eptenders.kmscl@kerala.gov.in
CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No. KMSCL/EP/519/2026 Dated : 24.06.2026

e-TENDER NOTICE (Running Contract)

Online bids are invited for the supply and installation of the following equipment for various Government healthcare institutions across Kerala

Sl. No	Tender No.	Description	Online Pre-Bid Meeting	Last date of Online submission
1.	T591/2026	Micromanipulator system with accessories, HVAC System for IVF Lab&OT (Air Handling Unit), Battery Operated Power Drill with Reamer Saw and accessories, Syringe pump, Advanced Phaco Emulsification System, Grossing work station, Ice Lined Refrigerator	04.07.2026 11.00 am.	18.07.2026 5.00 p.m.
2.	T592/2026	Modular Operation theatre Type B, C -Arm mobile image intensifier system model A, C -Arm mobile image intensifier system model B, Arthroscopy Camera & Instruments and Shaver System Model B, Blood Gas Analyzer – 500 test/ month, Blood Gas Analyzer – 200 test/ month	07.07.2026 11.00 am.	20.07.2026 5.00 p.m.
3.	T593/2026	Linear Accelerator (LINAC) Ring Gantry, Therapeutic Apheresis Machine, 4K ENT Video Imaging System Type II	09.07.2026 11.00 am.	20.07.2026 5.00 p.m.
4.	T594/2026	Procurement of consumables for Cath lab (Category I)	20.07.2026 11.00 am.	31.07.2026 5.00 p.m.
5.	T595/2026	HD Laparoscopic System, HD Laparoscopic instruments, Defibrillator with Cardiac Monitor, Blood collection Monitor	N.A.	10.07.2026 5.00 p.m.
5.	T596 R / 2026	Mobile Digital Radiography Model B, Refrigerated Incubator for Animal Husbandry, Refrigerated Micro Centrifuge for Animal Husbandry, Ergometer, Active Passive Exercise System for upper and lower Extremity, Sperm Fuge, Microdebrider for ENT, Pediatric Cysto - Urethroscope 8Fr, Body Box for Plethysmography, Cycler for performing Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD) Type A, Semi rigid Thoracoscope with Camera, Light Source and Display Unit, Magnetic Stirrer, Tissue Homogenizer, Retractor Set, LCD Vision Monitor, Normal Delivery Kits, Delivery Kits for C-Section, Whole Body Phototherapy Unit, Instruments for VATS (Video assisted Thoracic Surgery), Nephroscope 19.5Fr, Drying Cabinet, MRI Compatible Basic Vital Monitor, MRI Compatible Ventilator, Intra Oral Digital Radiographic System Type B, High Frequency Neonatal Ventillator	N.A.	14.07.2026 5.00 p.m.

Tender documents and all other information related to tender and bidding process can be downloaded from the website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

Sd/- Managing Director (Tender Inviting Authority)

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

RFP Tender Notice No. 10/2026-27/SE(PL&C)/EE(Bheemili)/ DB/GVMC/Dt:24-06-2026

Number of work - 01, Value of work: RFP Tender
Tender Opening Dt. 24.06.2026 @ 05.00 PM
Closing Date.10-07-2026 @ 4.00 PM
Note: Further details at **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**
O/o the SE(PL&C) Cell No.9951532876 **For Commissioner**

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & An ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)
VIDYUT SOUDHA :: VIJAYAWADA-04

NOTIFICATION

RECRUITMENT FOR THE POSTS OF ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (ELECTRICAL, CIVIL & TELECOM)

APTRANSCO invites applications to fill the posts of Assistant Executive Engineer (Electrical) -167 nos., Assistant Executive Engineer (Civil) - 23 nos., and Assistant Executive Engineer (Telecom) -10 nos. The Detailed notification regarding Educational Qualifications, Age, Date of uploading of applications through online and last date of submission of application etc., will be available on APTRANSCO website: www.aptransco.gov.in and https://apvidyutrecruitment.apcfss.in

R.O.No.GMCC/APTRANSCO/85/26-27 **Sd/- CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (HRD)**

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Delhi Transco Ltd, a Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking, invites online tender for the work:

Tender No.T25R220474: Design, Engineering, Supply, Laying, Jointing, Testing and Commissioning of 220kV D/C 1x1200 sq.mm. U/G XLPE Cable from 220kV IP Substation of 220kV Rajghat Substation on turnkey basis.

For complete details of the tender please visit following websites :-

https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in (Tender ID No. 2026_DTL_285876_1) and **www.dtl.gov.in** with Unique No. DTL-0059-240626.

Last date for bid submission: **11.08.2026 at 01.30 P.M.**

All Corrigendum/Addendum/ Amendments/ Date of Extension/ Clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, R.R. Nagara Zone, BBMP Office Building, CA No-3, 1st Main Road, Outer Ring Road, Kommaghatta Road, Kengeri Upanagara, Bengaluru - 560 060

No: EE/KEN/TEND/04/2026-27 **Date: 24-06-2026**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(TWO COVER SYSTEM) Call-1

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, Zone-1 invites tenders on behalf of the commisioner, BWCC, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the Contruction of works details in the table given below.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Comprehensive Development of works at SC-ST Colony Ambedkar Nagara in New Ward No. 16 Ullal (Old Ward No. 29 Ullal) **App. Value of Amount put to tender : ₹.400.31 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.6,00,500/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents can be downloaded through KPP portal from **25-06-2026**, **4:00** pm. (2) Pre-Bid meeting on **01-07-2026** at **3:00** pm O/o Chief Engineer, Ideal Homes, Rajarajeswari Nagar Zone, Bengaluru - 98. (3) Last date & Time for Receipt of Tenders on **07-07-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Opening of Bids on **08-07-2026** at **4:30** pm. **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, BWCC, Zone-1**

ABU DHABI

Rubio commits to UAE security during his tour of the Gulf nations

REUTERS

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio discussed the U.S.-Iran deal with UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed on Wednesday, renewing Washington's commitment to the country's security as he embarks on a tour of the Gulf. Mr. Rubio insisted that no country is allowed to impose tolls on the Strait of Hormuz. AFP

SEOUL

Kim unveils plans for 10,000-tonne warships, nuclear navy in N. Korea

AFP

North Korea will equip its navy with nuclear weapons and build larger warships, leader Kim Jong-un said, according to state media on Wednesday. Mr. Kim made his remarks at the commissioning of the *Choe Hyon* — one of two 5,000-tonne class warships launched last year — in the port city of Nampho on Tuesday. AFP

PARIS

French govt. confirms Ebola virus in doctor who worked in Congo

AFP

A positive case of Ebola virus has been identified in France in a doctor travelling back from Congo, the French Ministry of Health said on Wednesday. The individual, who has not been identified, returned from a humanitarian mission in one of the virus transmission zones in Congo. AP

QUETTA

Pak. court sentences Balochistan rights activist to life imprisonment

REUTERS

A Pakistani court has sentenced a prominent rights activist from southern Balochistan province to life imprisonment on murder and terror charges, drawing condemnation from civil liberties advocates this week. Mahrang Baloch, 33, was arrested in 2025 on charges stemming from a protest in Gwadar the previous year. AFP

Inspections in Iran will go ahead, working on modalities, says Grossi

Iran has not allowed IAEA to return to its most sensitive nuclear sites since attacks by the U.S. and Israel in June last year; MoU states that activities to be carried out with regards to nuclear material will be supervised by IAEA, says UN watchdog

Reuters
VIENNA

The UN nuclear watchdog will carry out inspections in Iran soon following an interim peace accord between the United States and Iran, but modalities have yet to be finalised, the agency's chief Rafael Grossi said on Wednesday.

The two sides signed a 14-point memorandum of understanding last week setting out broad agreements in principle to end the war. The interim accord paved the way for 60 days of talks aimed at hammering out thornier details, including issues related to Iran's nuclear programme.

"The inspections will indeed take place," International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi told a press conference in Japan, an audio recording of which the IAEA posted online. "We will be working on the modalities – dates, procedures, places – very soon," he said of discussions with Tehran.

Iran has not let the IAEA, which polices its nuclear programme, return to its most sensitive nuclear sites since the United States and Israel bombed them in June last year. The IAEA has inspected other sites, but inspections were suspended after the U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran on February 28.

Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency Raffael Grossi during a meeting at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna. REUTERS

A central issue in talks is what will happen to Iran's highly enriched uranium, including material enriched to up to 60% purity, a short step from the roughly 90% of weapons grade.

"Paragraph 8 of this memorandum of understanding states explicitly that nuclear activities that are going to be carried out with regards to nuclear material, facilities, will be supervised by the IAEA, in bold letters," Mr. Grossi said.

Iran has not informed the IAEA how much of its enriched uranium survived the attacks or where it is. The IAEA estimates Iran had 440.9 kg of uranium enriched to up to 60% before Israel launched the first attack on June 13 of last year. If enriched further, that would be enough for 10 nuclear weapons, according to an IAEA yardstick.

U.S. Senate passes symbolic Iran war rebuke to Trump

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The U.S. Senate passed a largely symbolic resolution on Tuesday calling for an end to President Donald Trump's war with Iran, delivering a fresh rebuke to the White House as it tries to negotiate a lasting settlement with Tehran.

The House-passed measure, adopted by the Senate in a 50-48 vote, directs Mr. Trump to remove U.S. forces from hostilities with Iran unless Congress explicitly authorises military action.

Because the measure is a "concurrent resolution," it does not go to Mr. Trump's desk for signature and carries disputed legal force.

But its passage still puts both chambers of Congress on record against a conflict that began with U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran in late February, rattled global energy markets and opened a broader regional war involving Lebanon and Gulf states.

Donald Trump

During Mr. Trump's first term, Congress passed War Powers Bills in 2019 and 2020 against military action in Yemen and Iran, respectively, but both were vetoed by Mr. Trump and the Senate failed to override them.

Mr. Trump slammed the vote later on Tuesday on his Truth Social platform, calling it "poorly timed and meaningless".

"These Senators have just made my job more difficult, but I will get it done, one way or the other, because I always get it done!" Mr. Trump said.

Under the 1973 War Powers Act, Presidents must obtain authorisation from Congress within 60 days of introducing U.S. forces into hostilities, though administrations of both parties have often contested how the law applies.

The White House has argued that resolutions seeking to curb Mr. Trump's powers to wage war in Iran are unconstitutional.

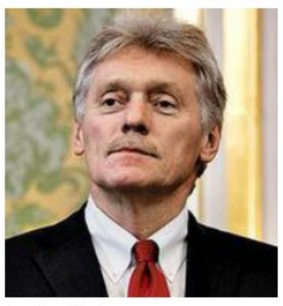
'Nuclear weapons the only guarantee against global war'

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Nuclear weapons are the "only" bulwark preventing the world from slipping into a global war, the Kremlin said on Wednesday amid fears of a fresh multi-country arms race.

The last nuclear arms control treaty between Russia and the United States, New START, expired in February, releasing restrictions on the world's two largest nuclear powers.

Speaking at a foreign policy forum in Moscow, the Kremlin's spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said that the global security system was "eroding".



Dmitry Peskov

"In fact, we have nothing left in this world apart from nuclear deterrence. It's the only thing that protects the world from a global war," he said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly invoked nuclear rhetoric throughout his four-year offensive on Ukraine.

Ukrainian strikes knock out power in Sevastopol in Crimea

Reuters
MOSCOW/KYIV

Ukrainian drones knocked out power in the biggest city in Russian-held Crimea on Wednesday and targeted facilities in central and southern Russia, local officials said, underscoring the reach of Kyiv's attacks on energy infrastructure.

Ukraine has intensified strikes on Russian oil refineries, depots and supply routes this year, pushing up gasoline prices in Russia, where authorities have limited sales in some regions.

Russian-installed governor of Sevastopol said the latest wave had downed power supplies and that trolleybuses would not operate and parents should keep children at home.

Work was ongoing to restore supplies even though Kyiv was "trying to deprive us of our normal living conditions and sow panic," the governor, Mikhail Razvozhayev, said in a post on the Telegram app.

Ukraine's drone forces commander Robert Brovdi said drones had hit the main substation at the Sevastopol power plant in Crimea.

In the central Russian region of Nizhny Novgorod, Governor Gleb Nikitin said falling Ukrainian drone debris damaged an industrial facility and killed two persons.

'China's technological advancements opportunity for world, not a threat'

Associated Press
HONG KONG

China's Premier Li Qiang on Wednesday defended the country's technological advancements as an opportunity for the world rather than a threat.

Mr. Li also said the country's heavy state subsidies were not the main reason for the rapid rise of its high-tech industries, at a time when Western officials have complained that China's state support for industries from artificial intelligence to electric vehicles has provided an unfair competitive edge.

China's No. 2 leader made the remarks in his speech at the opening plenary of the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting of the New Champions, known as the "Summer Davos," held this week in the northeastern Chinese coastal city of Dalian.

Li Qiang delivers his speech at the opening ceremony of the World Economic Forum in Dalian, China on Wednesday. AFP

He acknowledged there have been growing global concerns about China's technological innovations, with some pointing to the term "China Shock 2.0," as they see the nation's high-tech boom as a threat to many advanced economies. Instead, that should be seen as "China Opportunity 2.0," he said.

"From the global development perspective, 'China Opportunity 2.0' means there'll be broader access to advanced technologies and more widely shared benefits," Mr. Li said.

U.S. and European policymakers have raised concerns over Chinese state subsidies creating unfairness to their industries, while a June report by the 38-country Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said huge state subsidies can distort global markets and create unfair competitive advantages.

China's large domestic market and huge corporate investments are among the key factors in its tech advancements, he said.

☎ 08232-275663
ಪ್ರಧಾನಮಂತ್ರಿ ಶ್ರೀ ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ -೫೭೧೪೦೨
ಪಿಎಂ ಶ್ರೀ ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ,ಮಂಡ್ಯ-೫೭೧೪೦೨
PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA MANDYA - 571402
ಕೆ.ವಿ.ಕೋಡ್/KV CODE: 2300 ಸ್ಟೇಷನ್ ಕೋಡ್/Station Code: 788 ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಕೋಡ್/ Region Code: 02 ವಲಯ/Zone : ದಕ್ಷಿಣ/South
ಸಿಬಿಎಸ್‌ಇ ಸಂಬದ್ಧತಾ ಸಂಖ್ಯಾ/CBSE Affiliation Number: 800046 ಯು-ಡಿಐಎಸ್‌ಇ ಕೋಡ್ /U-DISE Code: 29220801904

Walk-in-interview for the post of Trained Graduate Teacher (Mathematics)

Venue: PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya, B. Hosur Colony, Keragodu Hobli, Mandya-571402
Salary Rs :. 26250/- per month

Post	Educational qualification	Date of Interview
TGT (Mathematics) (01 Post)	• Bachelor's Degree with at least 50% marks in the concerned subjects/combination of subjects and in aggregate. • B.Ed. or equivalent degree from a recognized university. Note: Candidate must study the respective subject in all the three years of graduation	29/06/2026 Reporting Time : 9:00 AM To 10:00 AM

Candidates must bring the original educational qualification certificates and 01 passport size photograph.
Note: Candidates willing to attend the walk-in-interview are mandatorily required to register themselves on the portal https://samvida-sathi.kvs.gov.in/

Principal

DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES
No-16C, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Bhavan Miller's tank bed road, Vasanth Nagar Bangalore-560052. Website: **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in**

Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Parsi
ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEE REIMBURSEMENT SCHOLARSHIP 2026-27

Online Applications are invited for eligible students from minority communities of Karnataka State who are pursuing PUC, Diploma, Graduates, Post Graduates, Technical & Professional Courses and to reimburse fees up to a limit of ₹5.00 lakh for students admitted to professional and technical courses through KEA for the year 2026-27

For Online application visit the following websites:
https://ssp.postmatric.karnataka.gov.in/ (State Scholarship Portal)
https://dom.karnataka.gov.in (Directorate of Minorities - GOK)

Start Date for Applying Fresh Application: **22.06.2026**
Last Date to apply : **30.09.2026**

Eligibility Conditions:

1. The student must belong to minority communities (Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikhs and Parsi)
2. The student must be a resident of Karnataka.
3. The student must have scored at least 50% marks in the previous semester/year final exam.
4. Total family income should not exceed Rs. 2.00 lakhs for Post-Matric (Fee Reimbursement) & 2.5 lakhs for Merit-Cum-Means (Fee Reimbursement)
5. Aadhar seeding and NPCI mapping to bank account is mandatory to avail the scholarship.
6. Eligibility conditions for Fee Reimbursement scheme is subject to the Government orders and Guidelines issued by the government from time to time.

For further details, Instructions and procedures please visit Directorate of Minorities website **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** For assistance contact nearest Minority Information Centres (MIC) or contact District Minority Welfare Department

Date: 23.06.2026
Place : Bengaluru
Sd/-
Director,
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/1328/NR/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
(www.kpwd.gov.in)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ನಂ.2, ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗ, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ,
ಲೋ.ಇ. ಹೂರಕ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು. ದೂ: 080 22220227
E-Portal : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:04/2026-27
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24-06-2026

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ನಂ2 ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ-2000ರನ್ವಯ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-1, & ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-2ರ ನಿಯಮಗಳಂತೆ ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 01 ರಿಂದ 72ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ತುರ್ತು ದುರಸ್ತಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) ಪಿಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ಎರಡು ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೋಸಸಿಂಗ್ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇಎಂಡಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
1. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೌಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 24.06.2026 ರಿಂದ 02.07.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
2. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 02.07.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
3. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 04.07.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಕ್ಕೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ನಂ.2ನೇ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
DIPR/CP/1335/Zen/2026-27

TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL RONA
Rona - 582 209, Gadag District.
Ph. : 08381-267234, E-mail : itstaff_ulb_ron@yahoo.in
No. : T.M.C./RON./ENG-CMIDP/2026-27 Date : 23-06-2026

RE-TENDER NOTICE
(Through K.P.P.P. Portal)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, the **Rona Municipal Council** invites Re-Tender from eligible K.P.P.P. Registered contractors under the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act, 2000, for execution of works approved under the Action Plan funded in the **Scheme CMIDP 2025-26 & SFC Scarcity 2026-27** through the K.P.P.P. Portal System.

Interested contractors may participate in the tender as per the prescribed conditions through the KPPP Portal Website : K.P.P.P. Portal.

Sl. No.	Indent Number	Estimated Amount (in Lakhs)	Reservation
	CMIDP		
01	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT52995/CALL-2	84.00	SC
02	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT52998/CALL-2	74.30	ST
	SFC Scarcity 2026-27		
01	DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT58373/CALL-2	6.00	Other
	Total	164.30	

Important Dates : 1) Last Date for Submission of Tender Applications on the K.P.P.P. Portal : 10-07-2026 upto 5.30 p.m., 2) Date of Opening of Technical Bid : 13-07-2026, 3) Date of Opening of Financial Bid : 15-07-2026.

Note : Any amendments or corrections related to this tender will be published only on the K.P.P.P. Portal.

Sd/- Chief Officer,
Town Municipal Counil,
Ron.
Sd/- Administrator,
Town Municipal Counil,
Ron.
DIPR/Gadag/137/Manipal/2026-27

HARD-FOUGHT CONTEST

Panama out of World Cup after narrow loss to Croatia

REUTERS

Panama was eliminated from the World Cup after Croatia kept its hopes of progressing to the last 32 alive with a 1-0 win in Toronto on Tuesday. Ante Budimir's 54th-minute goal proved enough to see off the spirited Central Americans in the Group L contest that marked Luka Modric's 200th international appearance.

PAYING HOMAGE

DR Congo's living statue fan makes his World Cup debut

REUTERS

DR Congo's famous living statue finally made his World Cup debut on Tuesday. Michel Nkuka Mboladinga, who gained fame during the AFCON for posing as a statue of Congo's assassinated independence leader Patrice Lumumba for the entirety of games, attended the match against Colombia after missing the opener against Portugal.

BARREN

England sets dubious distinction for the most goalless draws

REUTERS

England set an unwanted record for the most goalless draws in FIFA World Cup history after its 0-0 stalemate against Carlos Queiroz's Ghana in the Group L clash in Massachusetts on Tuesday. England's total number of goalless matches in FIFA World Cup history has risen to 13.

BEST IN THE BUSINESS

Record for most goals scored in the group stage broken

GETTY IMAGES

The first 48 matches of the 2026 World Cup have produced 141 goals, the highest tally in the group phase of a single edition of the global tournament. The previous record stood at 136 goals, which was set during the 2014 World Cup that had 48 group-stage games. The latest mark was created in Portugal's 5-0 rout of Uzbekistan.

Colombia overcomes obdurate DR Congo

Munoz's strike in the second half sends the South Americans to the top of Group K with six points and in to the knockout round of 32

FIFA WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse
GUADALAJARA

Breaking through: Munoz celebrates after scoring Colombia's winner. REUTERS

Colombia finally broke down a stubborn DR Congo side on Tuesday to secure a 1-0 win that guaranteed its place in the World Cup knockout rounds.

The victory, courtesy of a 76th-minute goal from Daniel Munoz, took it top of Group K with six points – two clear of Portugal which it will face in the final round.

The South Americans dominated the early stages peppering Lionel Mpasi's goal. Munoz squandered a chance and shortly afterwards had a goal ruled out for offside while James Rodriguez unleashed a stinging shot that was brilliantly saved. Mpasi made further sharp stops from Johan Mojica and Luis Diaz as the Colombians, playing with pace and invention, continued to dominate.

But their intensity dipped after the first drinks break, allowing DR Congo to edge back into the contest and pose their own occasional threat.

Mpasi made another stunning save with his leg from Diaz in the 50th minute to keep the game goalless.

DR Congo briefly threatened but Crystal Palace defender Munoz made up for his first-half miss when his shot was deflected past a wrong-footed Mpasi.

THE RESULTS

Group K: Colombia 1 (Munoz 76) bt DR Congo 0.
Group L: England 0 drew with Ghana 0; Panama 0 lost to Croatia 1 (Budimir 54).

Stat attack

1 Ronaldo is the first player to score in six editions (2006, '10, '14, '18, '22, '26)

2 Mendes is the second Portuguese (after Ronaldo vs. Spain, 2018) to find the target off a direct free-kick at the marquee event

3 Ronaldo (Portugal) has joined Laudrup (Denmark) and Messi (Argentina) as the youngest and oldest scorer for his country at the quadrennial extravaganza

4 Ghana is one of four teams (after Argentina, Mexico and Spain) yet to concede a goal in this year's tournament

5 Colombia's Luis Diaz is the first player to be caught off-side five times in a World Cup contest (vs. DR Congo) since Robin van Persie (6 vs. Costa Rica, 2014)

10 Ronaldo has gone past Eusebio (9) to become Portugal's top-scorer in the football showpiece

13 England has the most goalless draws at the World Cup

22y 183d Uzbekistan's Karimov (18y 320d) and Portugal's Ronaldo (41y 138d) had the biggest gap between two starting players in a World Cup game

41y 138d Ronaldo is the second oldest to score at the World Cup (after Cameroon's Milla, 42y 39d in 1994)

79 England's possession percentage against Ghana, the highest by a team that failed to score in the World Cup in the last 60 years

COMPILED BY ANIRUDH VELAMURI

Misfiring India meets spirited Bangladesh in must-win game

T20 WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MANCHESTER

D-day: It's now or never for Harmanpreet & Co. X@BCCIWOMEN

They have been here before.

Back to the wall. Must-win game. Followed by must-win game. Again.

The Women in Blue showed they could do that in some style at the ODI World Cup at home just seven months ago. From the brink of elimination, they went all the way to the greatest triumph in the history of Indian women's cricket.

That was one great comeback.

It is time for another one. At the T20 World Cup.

Harmanpreet Kaur's women will take the field against Bangladesh at Old Trafford here on Thursday knowing that they have to deliver. Something they failed to do in their last match, against South Africa, despite promising with both bat and ball.

India had the Proteas struggling at 25 for two after the PowerPlay, and the dangerous captain Laura Wolvaardt was back in the dressing room.

To be fair, the bowlers hadn't got enough runs to defend, but another wicket or two, and not dropping catches, could have put the South Africans under pressure.

Earlier, when India batted, Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma had given their team another rousing start. The middle-order, however, didn't rise to the occasion, yet again.

Of course, India had to deal with an inspired all-round performance by the gritty Marizanne Kapp, who guided her team to victory with what she later described as her best T20 innings.

India needs such a spirited show from its own player or two against Bangladesh.

This Indian team, of course, looks too strong for Bangladesh, and this match may not pose as much a challenge as the one after (against Australia).

But, given the situation they are in, the Indians have to be at their best, even though they apparently have not yet been able to identify their best eleven. India needs more from Harmanpreet and Jemimah Rodrgiues, each of whom has in their CV an all-time great ODI innings. Neither has really looked fluent enough.

Smriti, Shafali, Richa Ghosh and Deepti Sharma have been scoring the bulk of India's runs, and they need to take that form into the coming matches. India must be banking on Shree Charani, the newly-crowned No. 1 bowler in T20Is, to continue her marvellous work.

The Bangladesh women will have to be particularly wary of her. They go into the match no doubt buoyed by their win against Pakistan. And they are not under as much pressure as their rivals.

England left frustrated in a goalless stalemate

Agence France-Presse
FOXBOROUGH

England suffered a FIFA World Cup setback on Tuesday as Thomas Tuchel's side was held to a frustrating 0-0 draw by Ghana, leaving it with work still to do as it bids to progress to the knockout stage as Group L winner.

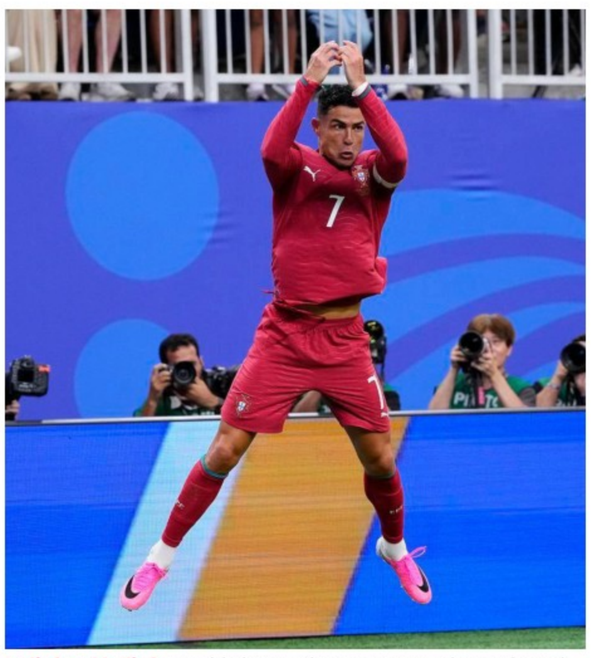
Nico O'Reilly came closest to scoring with a late header for England that hit the bar, but after the promise of its opening 4-2 victory over Croatia, this was a performance that will raise doubts as to its chances of going all the way and winning the tournament.

It dominated possession and had 19 shots to its opponents' two, yet rarely looked like scoring past Ghana's stand-in goalkeeper Benjamin Asare.

Both teams have four points with one game still to play in Group L, with progression to the next round all but assured, but their final positions are still in the balance.

At 41, Ronaldo shows he still has it in him to deliver

Ayon Sengupta
HOUSTON



Relief and belief: Ronaldo lets out his emotions with a trademark SIU after scoring a brace against Uzbekistan. GETTY IMAGES

For about eight months, the goals had stopped coming in international football.

By Cristiano Ronaldo's standards, that drought felt almost unnatural. His last international goal had come on October 14, 2025, against Hungary, and after a below-par performance in Portugal's opening World Cup game against DR Congo, the critics were circling around.

Thierry Henry used his platform on *Fox Sports* to make a pointed observation. "One thing that's important, people, please, at home: The team needs to score, not you need to score."

On Tuesday, Ronaldo delivered his answer. He netted twice as Portugal defeated Uzbekistan, ending a barren run that had stretched for long. At 41 years and 138 days, Ronaldo became the second-oldest goal-scorer in World Cup history, behind Roger Milla, who had struck against Russia in 1994 when he was 42 years and 39 days old.

He is now the oldest player to record more than one goal in a men's World Cup game, surpassing the mark his long-time rival Lionel Messi had set against Algeria and then extended further with his twin strike against Austria.

"I'm very happy. But for me, the most important thing is our work and the confidence we showed," Ronaldo said, perhaps sending a message to the detractors, who had questioned his adaptability as a team man. "The team performed really well and improved a lot. As the saying goes, every cloud has a silver lining. Obviously, speaking personally, records are always nice, but my goal is always to help the national team achieve its objectives."

That response reflected a player who understands his place in the final chapter of a remarkable career. Ronaldo no longer needs to prove he can score goals. He has spent more than two decades doing precisely that. He, now, seeks one last meaningful run with Portugal.

Roberto Martinez, the Portugal coach, came to Ronaldo's defence. "Our captain is an icon, and he is a role model who works hard for the Portugal team both on the pitch and also in the dressing room. And it is not just the goals he scores but what he creates, the passes he makes. He is already preparing for the next match," Martinez said.

After months of questions and scrutiny, the night brought confirmation that even at 41, Ronaldo remains capable of deciding the biggest occasions.

Japan, Sweden ready to joust with qualification on the line

Ayon Sengupta
DALLAS

Group F remains delicately poised heading into the final round of matches, and neither Japan nor Sweden will feel entirely comfortable when they meet at the Dallas Stadium.

Both still control their own destinies, but the margin for error is considerably narrower. Japan arrives with momentum after Hajime Moriyasu's side produced one of the performances of the tournament in a 4-0 demolition of Tunisia. With four points and a superior goal difference, Japan knows a draw will guarantee a place in the knockout rounds.

Sweden's journey in this World Cup, however, has been more turbulent. Graham Potter's side opened with an emphatic 5-1 victory over Tunisia but was brought crashing back to earth by a big defeat against the Netherlands.

Despite the setback, Sweden remains well placed on three points. Another point could be enough to secure progression, depending on results elsewhere. Its greatest source of optimism remains up front. The partnership of Viktor Gyokeres and Alexander Isak has the potential to emerge as one of the most dangerous attacking combinations.

Japan will be without attacking midfielder Takefusa Kubo, who is nursing a knee injury.

With qualification at stake, Dallas could witness one of the fiercest contests of the final group-stage round.

Table and fixtures

As the teams head into their final group games, a look at how they are placed and who they meet

GROUP D	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points
USA (Q)	2	2	0	0	6	1	5	6
Australia	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3
Paraguay	2	1	0	1	2	4	-2	3
Turkiye (E)	2	0	0	2	0	3	-3	0

Friday's matches: *Turkiye vs. USA and Paraguay vs. Australia, both 7.30 a.m. IST*

GROUP E	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points
Germany (Q)	2	2	0	0	9	2	7	6
Ivory Coast	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3
Ecuador	2	0	1	1	0	1	-1	1
Curacao	2	0	1	1	1	7	-6	1

Friday's matches: *Curacao vs. Ivory Coast and Ecuador vs. Germany, both 1.30 a.m. IST*

GROUP F	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points
Netherlands	2	1	1	0	7	3	4	4
Japan	2	1	1	0	6	2	4	4
Sweden	2	1	0	1	6	6	0	3
Tunisia (E)	2	0	0	2	1	9	-8	0

Friday's matches: *Japan vs. Sweden and Tunisia vs. Netherlands, both 4.30 a.m. IST*

Q: Qualified | E: Eliminated

* The top two from each group and the eight best third-placed sides will advance to the round of 32

I would say I'm an all-rounder: Shafali

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MANCHESTER

Shafali Verma took the new ball for India against South Africa. She enjoyed every minute of it, giving away just three runs.

Is she seeing herself as an all-rounder these days?

"Yes, I would say I am an all-rounder now," she said, smiling, here on Wednesday, on the eve of India's crucial T20 Women's World Cup match against Bangladesh. "In domestic cricket, playing for Haryana, I have always tried to bowl, as a captain too, and used to think what I could do if I get a chance to bowl for the Indian team."

She revealed she had visualised the very situation (bowling the first over of the innings). "I had prepared for it, and worked hard. That is why I could execute well," she said. "As a player I would like to put my hand up and serve the team in a given situation."

Shafali said her father had asked her to bowl from her earliest days. "My brother is a leg-spinner and he said I too should bowl," she said. "My father now is happy and tells me it was good that I bowled on those days."

Looking forward to the Bangladesh match, Shafali said: "We can't take any team lightly. They also came here to play good cricket. We will go game by game and try to play our best cricket and try to win that game."

She said the morale was down after the loss to South Africa. "But we motivated each other for our last two group matches".

Today's matches

India vs. Bangladesh
Manchester, 7 p.m. IST
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 23
India 20 | Bangladesh 3

South Africa vs. Netherlands
Bristol, 11 p.m. IST
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 1
South Africa 1 | Netherlands 0

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

INBRIEF

Vanshika and Shiva win 10m air pistol mixed team silver

Vanshika Chaudhary and Shiva Narwal delivered a composed performance to clinch the 10m air pistol mixed team silver medal at the ISSF Junior World Championship in Suhl, Germany, on Tuesday. They shot 469.7 to finish behind Poland's Malgorzata Dabrowska and Ivan Rakitski (471.9). The bronze went to Taiwan's Cheng Yen-Ching and Hsieh Hsiang-Chen (410.0). India continued to top the medal standings with 16 medals – five gold, four silver and seven bronze.

Treesa-Gayatri duo advances at US Open badminton

The women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopi Chand advanced to the second round of the US Open Super 300 badminton tournament after overcoming Spain's Paula Lopez and Lucia Rodriguez in a three-game battle at Fullerton. Treesa, making her return after an ankle injury layoff, and Gayatri won 21-12, 14-21, 21-13 in a 51-minute opening-round contest. The Indian duo will next take on Japan's Sumire Nakade and Miyu Takahashi.

Shileima to lead Indian junior women's hockey team

Midfielder Khaidem Shileima Chanu will lead a 24-member Indian junior women's team for an exposure tour of the United Kingdom from July 5 to 14, Hockey India (HI) announced on Wednesday. Under new coach Tim White, the team will play seven matches in Scotland and England.

The squad: Goalkeepers: Nidhi, Engil Harsha Rani Minz. **Defenders:** Pooja Sahoo, Supriya, Madhu, F. Lalbi Aksiami, Lalneihpuii, Parwati Topno. **Midfielders:** Khaidem Shileima Chanu (Capt.), Tanuja Toppo, Supriya Kujur, Pooja Malik, Binima Dhan, Geeta Yadav, Roshni Aind, Tanushree Dinesh Kadu; **Forwards:** Sukhveer Kaur, Shashi Khasa, Lalrinpuii, Nisha Minj, Purnima Yadav, Kajal, Sanika Chandrakant Mane, Krishna Sharma.

Indian men's foil team secures Asian Games spot

On the final day of the 26th Asian senior fencing championships in New Delhi on Wednesday, Japan clinched gold in the men's foil team event through a solid display anchored by individual champion Kyosuke Matsuyama. While Hong Kong launched a fierce campaign to claim silver, the Chinese pocketed the bronze medal. In this category, the Indian team secured eighth position to seal a direct qualification spot for the upcoming Asian Games. In women's epee, South Korea captured gold. China and Kazakhstan won silver and bronze respectively.

LIVE TELECAST

FIFA World Cup: Unite8 Sports 1, 2 & Z5 App, 6.30 a.m. 1.30 & 4.30 a.m. (Friday)
England vs New Zealand: 3rd Test, day 1, Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 3.30 p.m.
Women's T20 World Cup: Bangladesh vs India, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7 p.m. & 11 p.m.
West Indies vs Sri Lanka: 1st Test, day 1, FanCode, 7.30 p.m.

Anand honoured with SJFI Medal

Chess icon says he is proud to be a catalyst for the growth of the sport in India; terms the award a recognition by his peers for real achievements

GENERAL

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Five-time World chess champion Viswanathan Anand was honoured with the Sports Journalists' Federation of India's 'SJFI Medal' at a well-attended function at the Madras Cricket Club here on Wednesday.

The event was hosted in partnership with the Tamil Nadu Sports Journalists' Association (TNSJA).

Anand, who is serving as the deputy president of FIDE, joins an esteemed list of awardees that includes Sunil Gavaskar, Vijay Amritraj, Prakash Padukone, P.T. Usha, and Milkha Singh (posthumous). The medal was presented to the 56-year-old by former India cricket captain and 1983 World Cup winner K. Srikkanth.

Rewarding excellence: Srikkanth congratulates Anand after presenting the SJFI Medal as Baskaran, right, and SJFI's Ramesh and Saraju Chakraborty look on. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

"I am proud in a way to have been a catalyst for the growth of chess in India. This is very much a recognition by my peers for real achievements and contributions. This is very special because it is hardcore; these are people who will appreciate you for what you did and not necessarily the impact it had or anything else," said an elated Anand.

True champion

Srikkanth was at his witty best. "Way back in 1985 or 1986, I played chess with Anand and that is my claim to fame. As usual, I got knocked out in five or six moves, but that is fine. Being the world champion in an individual sport... just imagine. He deserves a standing ovation," said Srikkanth as the attendees rose in unison to celebrate the achievements of the legendary Grandmaster.

Olympic gold-winning hockey skipper V. Baskaran hailed the SJFI for "doing a wonderful job in promoting sports". Veteran journalist R. Mohan read the citation that was presented to Anand. A customised caricature was also given to the champion.

The SJFI president Saraju Chakraborty delivered the welcome address, while the federation's secretary V. Ramesh, proposed the vote of thanks.

Other eminent sports personalities, including GMs K. Sasikiran, Shyam Sundar, IMs Manuel Aaron, V. Saravanan, P. Konguvel and former hockey player Mohammed Riaz also graced the function.

Blasters register their third win in Maharaja Trophy

Sports Bureau

Kalyani Bengaluru Blasters defeated Coastal Kings Mangaluru by 20 runs in a high-scoring Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 encounter in Mysuru on Wednesday. It was the Blasters' third win from four games and Coastal Kings' first defeat in three.

Batting first, Blasters made 226, with five of the top six making 30 runs or more. K.L. Shrijith top-scored with 59 (33b, 7x4, 2x6), coming together for a 55-run association with opener Rohan Patil (30, 14b, 5x4, 1x6) and a 49-run partnership with Samit Dravid (39, 21b, 3x4, 2x6).

Praveen Dubey gave the innings a whirlwind finish by remaining unbeaten on 45 (21b, 6x4, 2x6).

In reply, the Mangaluru side faltered at the beginning, losing Nikin Jose and captain Karun Nair cheaply. When the outfit was reduced to 97 for five, it seemed curtains.

But two manic partnerships involving Suraj Ahuja (96 n.o., 38b, 5x4, 8x6) brought the side back. Ahuja first combined with Aaron Christie for 41 runs from 15 balls, and then with C.A. Karthik (49 n.o., 27b, 3x4, 3x6) for 109 unbeaten runs from 51 deliveries.

But even their best efforts couldn't take the team past the finish line.

The scores: Bengaluru Blasters 2266 in 20 overs (K.L. Shrijith 59, Praveen Dubey 45 n.o., C.A. Karthik 3/49) bt Coastal Kings Mangaluru (Suraj Ahuja 96 n.o., C.A. Karthik 49 n.o.). Shivamogga Yodhas 220/5 in 20 overs (Luvnith Sisodia 57, M.G. Naveen 75) bt Hubli Tigers 178 in 19.3 overs (Mohammed Taha 44, Hardik Raj 43, Abhilash Shetty 4/25).

Good, but... Ahuja's whirlwind knock was not enough to take Coastal Kings home. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Titles for Bangalore Champs Academy and Alchemy International

Bangalore Champs Academy and Alchemy International FA emerged as South and North Zone champions respectively in the KSFA 'C' Division football league here on Wednesday.

The results (final): South Zone: Bangalore Champs Academy bt Blues Star FC 3-0. **North Zone:** Alchemy International FA bt Ronaldo FC Bangalore 1-1 (via 4-1 on penalties).

Sheetal stars for Hammonds

Sheetal Santosh hammered 208 as Hammonds Cricket Club whipped Neptune Cricket Club in the KSCA under-15 girls' T30 tournament here.

The scores: Hammonds CC 335/1 in 25 overs (Tamanna Sudesh Kumar 100 n.o., Sheetal Santosh 208 n.o.) bt Neptune CC 51/8 in 25 overs (by 283 runs, match reduced to 25 overs due to wet outfield).
Swastic Union (2) 114/1 in 12 overs (Yashika Gowda 79 n.o.) bt Young Lions Club 43 in 11.5 overs (match reduced to 12 overs due to wet outfield).
Engrades CC 163/6 in 29 overs bt Palar SC 138/6 in 29 overs (match reduced to 29 overs due to wet outfield).
Dooravani Cricketers (1) 183/2 in 30 overs (M. Loukya 68, Aadhya Sunil Patil 68) bt Herons CC 134/6 in 23.1 overs (Mahathi Bhaskar 75) (by 8 runs via VJD method) (match stopped due to rain).
Yankees CC 74 in 25.3 overs lost to Sir Syed Cricketers 75/2 in 12.5 overs.

Triumphant: Kickstart FC lifted the KSFA U-20 Youth Premier Football league title with a 2-0 win over HAL SC in the final on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sheetal Santosh (208).

Akhil is Swastic Union (2)'s hero

K. Akhil smashed an unbeaten 170 to power Swastic Union Cricket Club (2) past Mathikere Cricket Club in the KSCA under-19 inter-club tournament here.

The scores: City Gymkhana 279/7 in 50 overs (C. Barath 84, K. Vedaraj Yadav 76) lost to Vijaya Cricket Club 280/6 in 48.2 overs (S.J. Aadharsh 114, Dhruv Krishnan 41, S. Udgeet Nandan 40).
YMCA Cricket Club (3) 188 in 44.3 overs (Akshay Ravi Sastry 4/41) lost to National Cricketers 189/6 in 38.1 overs (Mohammed Arhaan Khan 51, Milind Dutta 66).
Merchants Cricket Club (1) 91 in 21.2 overs (Chilukuri Sri Ram Praneeth 6/26) lost to Century Cricketers 93 in 7.3 overs (T.N.V. Siddharth 59 n.o.)
Sir Syed Cricketers 194 in 49.2 overs (Aaryansinh Chavda 48) bt City Cricketers (2) 122 in 30.5 overs.
Dooravani Cricketers (1) 334/7 in 50 overs (Prajjval Srivastava 60, Aditya Shahapurkar 77, H. Dhruv Acharya 74 n.o.) bt Jolly Cricketers 70 in 19.5 overs (Prasad Kumar 4/10, Mohammed Shamsheer 5/28).
Chintamani Sports Association, Chintamani 234 in 47.3 overs (Arjun Aravind Potti 61, A.N. Pradyumna 59, Kevin Hiteshkumar Dubal 5/40) bt Vivekanagar Cricketers 126 in 35.3 overs (K. Prajeeth Shetty 56, Shreehaan Arinjai 4/26).
Jawans Cricket Club 348/4 in 50 overs (J. Arya Gowda 69, Nitish Arya 139, Talha Sheriff 82) bt Yankees Cricket Club 134 in 30.3 overs (J. Arya Gowda 4/35, Arjun Ramesh 5/39).
Swastic Union (2) 397/4 in 50 overs (R. Shiv 141, K. Akhil 170 n.o.) bt Mathikere Cricket Club 190/7 in 36.5 overs (Mahith Bandi 44, Rafa Poonacha Ballachanda 90) (by 140 runs via VJD method) (match stopped due to rain).
Cambridge Cricket Club 210 in 41.5 overs (Arnav Anil 90) bt Jawahar Sports Club (2) 152/8 in 50 overs (Raibath Raipalli 53 n.o., Arav Prasad 5/18).
Young Cricketers (1) 304/7 in 50 overs (R. Chinmai 46, R. Monik 112) bt Bangalore United Cricket Club (1) 301/7 in 50 overs (Yash Rajanna 64, Adhrit Rao 121).
Bangalore Cricketers 268 in 50 overs (A. Rishik 46) bt Sangam Cricket Association 171 in 32.3 overs (Vijay Maller 4/33).

Manika-TTFI standoff intensifies

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The standoff between Manika Batra and the TTFI over her exclusion from the Asian Games squad intensified on Wednesday, with the paddler hinting at legal recourse even as TTFI issued a response explaining the selection process.

The three-page reply, accessed by *The Hindu*, was sent after deliberations within the TTFI hierarchy over the last five days. According to TTFI, despite not fulfilling the criteria because of her absence from the domestic circuit for the last two seasons, the World No. 51 was considered in recognition of her achievements. It maintained that Manika's omission was not due to any single factor. Manika said that her concerns were about transparency rather than selection.

India pips Sri Lanka, seals women's u-19 T20 series

Tarun Shastry
CHENNAI

India clinched the three-match women's under-19 T20 series with an 11-run win over Sri Lanka in the second game at the MAC Stadium on Wednesday.

Chasing a tricky 135, Sri Lanka stayed in the contest through a 69-run second-wicket partnership that threatened to swing the match. However, medium-pacer Janhavi Virkar (three for 14) and left-arm spinner Maitri Maniar (three for 26) pulled things back to secure an unassailable 2-0 lead for the home team.

For all-rounder Kashvi Kandikuppa, wearing the India colours is a dream come true. "When the squad list came out, I was really overwhelmed. But this is just the beginning."

Having the last laugh: The Indians prevailed by 11 runs. X@BCCI

Kashvi, who began as a keeper-batter and medium-pacer before settling into off-spin, said India head coach Nooshin Al Khadeer helped simplify her approach. "Before learning variations, she wanted me to be spot-on with my off-spin. It is about using the crease, understanding the batter and reading situations."

The scores: India u-19 134/6 in 20 overs (Tanishka Sharma 58) bt Sri Lanka u-19 123/8 in 20 overs (Vimoksha Balasuriya 61, Janhavi Virkar 3/14, Maitri Maniar 3/26).

Anushka, Dev Meena and Jyothi book their Asiad tickets

ATHLETICS

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

Eighteen-year-old hammer thrower Anushka Yadav smashed a nine-year-old National record, pole vaulter Dev Meena bettered the National record and hurdler Jyothi Yarraji made a stunning comeback from injury in the National inter-state athletics meet at the Kalinga Stadium here on Wednesday.

The evening belonged to an unheralded Anushka, a National under-20 record holder hailing from Baghpat, as she unexpectedly broke the National mark in her second attempt (65.64m). She bettered it in her last throw to log 67.02m, a five-plus metres improvement on her previous best of 62.89m, to qualify for the Asian Games.

Star performers: Hammer thrower Anushka lowered a nine-year-old mark, Meena soared to 5.46m in pole vault and Jyothi asserted her class in 100m hurdles. BISWARANJAN ROUT

"I had a knee injury in March while I was handling agricultural equipment to help my father in our field. I made a good recovery to perform here," said Anushka.

Meena overcame the challenges of competing in humid weather by staying hydrated and booked his Asiad spot with a mark of 5.46m.

Jyothi asserted her class as she timed 13.14 in the women's 100m hurdles heats to achieve Asian Games qualification before clocking 12.99 in the final to win the race. "I waited for this moment. The same day last year I got injured. I was in no mood to give up," said Jyothi.

National record holder Gulveer Singh, who is still acclimatising after returning from his training base in the USA a week ago, ran a slow race in 'hot' morning conditions to clock 13:52.92 and emerge victorious. However, he could not achieve the coveted qualification mark.

Altogether 15 athletes qualified in the men's 800m heats.

The results (finals): Men: 5000m (Asiad Q mark 13:39.18): 1. Gulveer Singh (UP) 13:52.92, 2. Abhishek Pal (UP) 13:54.18, 3. Harmanjot Singh (Pun) 13:54.60; **Pole vault (Asiad Q mark 5.45m):** 1. Dev Meena (MP) 5.46m (NR, Old 5.45m, Kuldeep Kumar, 2026), 2. Reegan G. (TN) 5.30m, 3. Kuldeep Kumar (MP) 5.20m.
Women: 5000m (Asiad Q mark 15:36.58): 1. Seema (HP) 16:11.04, 2. Bharti (Har) 16:17.10, 3. Ravina Gayakwad (Mah) 16:32.92; **100m hurdles (Asiad Q mark 13.34):** 1. Jyothi Yarraji (AP) 12.99, 2. Nandhini K. (TN) 13.22, 3. Pragyan Prasanti Sahu (Odi) 13.48; **Triple jump (Asiad Q mark 13.34m):** 1. I. Asha Ilango (TN) 13.89m (NMR, Old 13.72m, Mayookha Johny, 2014), 2. Niharika Vashisht (Pun) 13.22m, 3. Mallala Anusha (AP) 13.13m; **Hammer (Asiad Q mark 61.72m):** 1. Anushka Yadav (UP) 67.02m (NR, Old 65.25m, Sarita Singh, 2017), 2. Tanya Chaudhary (UP) 61.70m, 3. Harshita Sehrawat (Del) 60.92m.